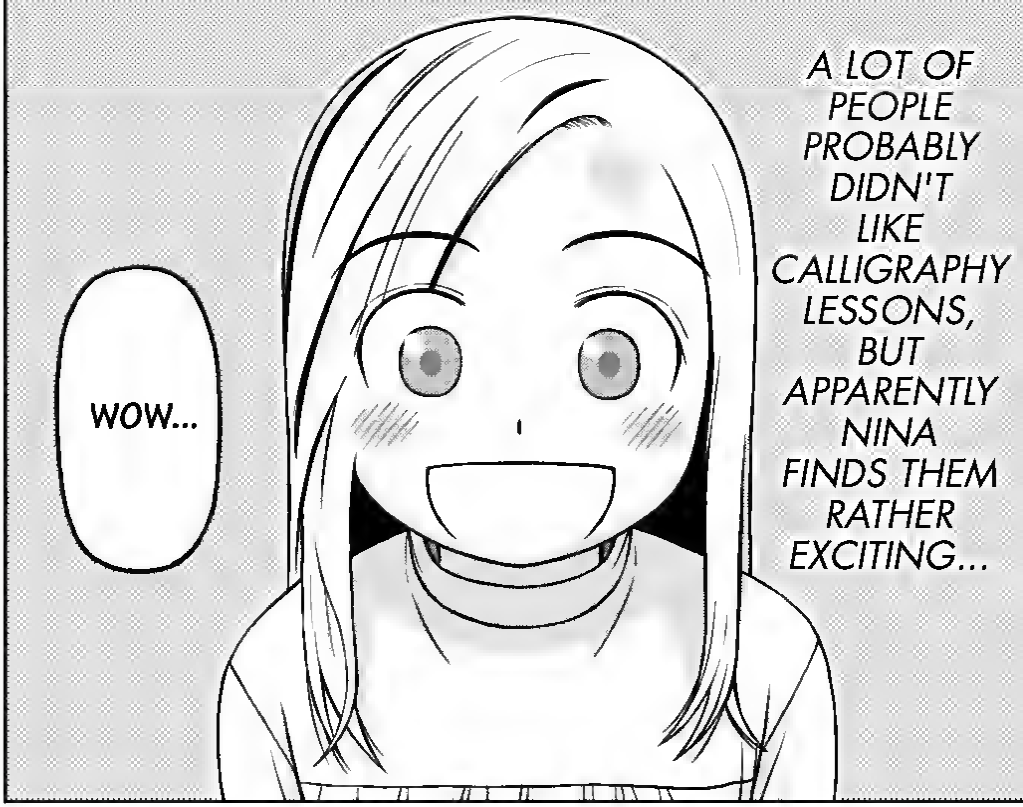
CHAPTER 36

INK AND BRUSH

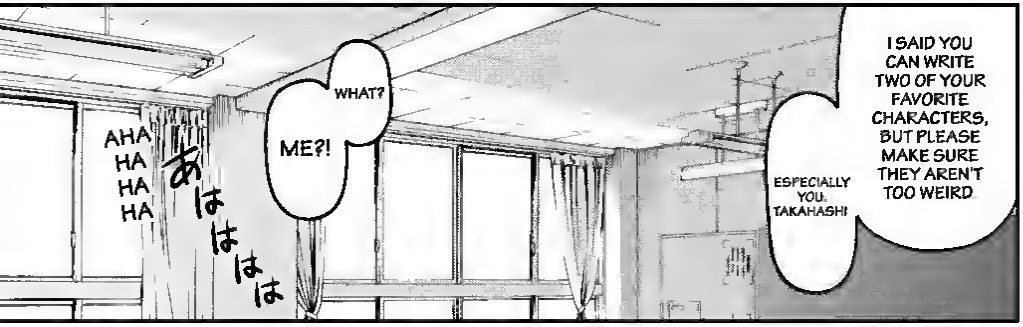
HER HEART DANCES AT A NEW CHALLENGE

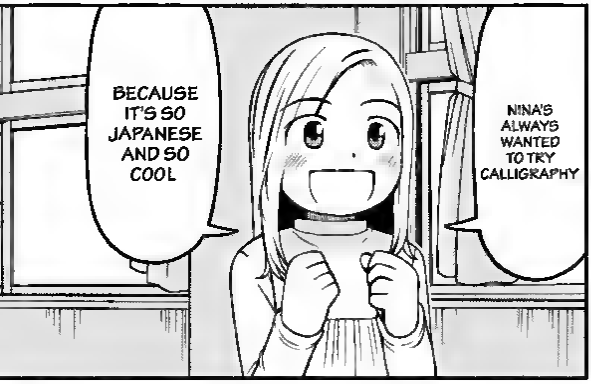

WOW...
A LOT OF PEOPLE PROBABLY DIDN'T LIKE CALLIGRAPHY LESSONS, BUT APPARENTLY NINA FINDS THEM RATHER EXCITING...

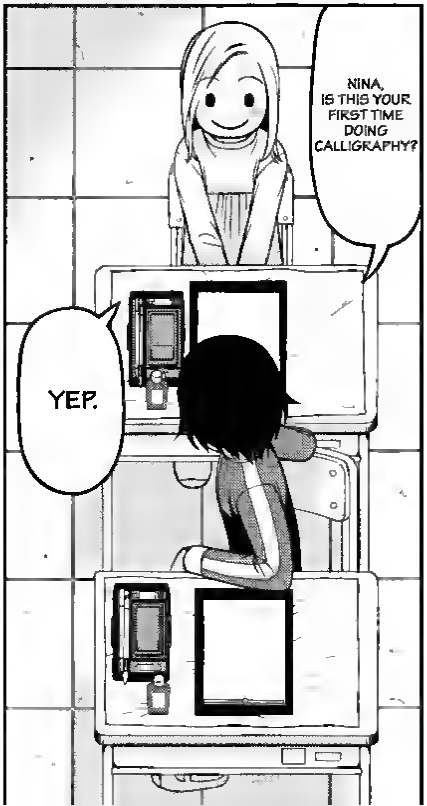
SO COOL...

TODAY, YOU'RE GOING TO WRITE TWO OF YOUR FAVORITE KANJI CHARACTERS

YOU GUYS READY FOR CALLIGRAPHY?
YES MAAM.

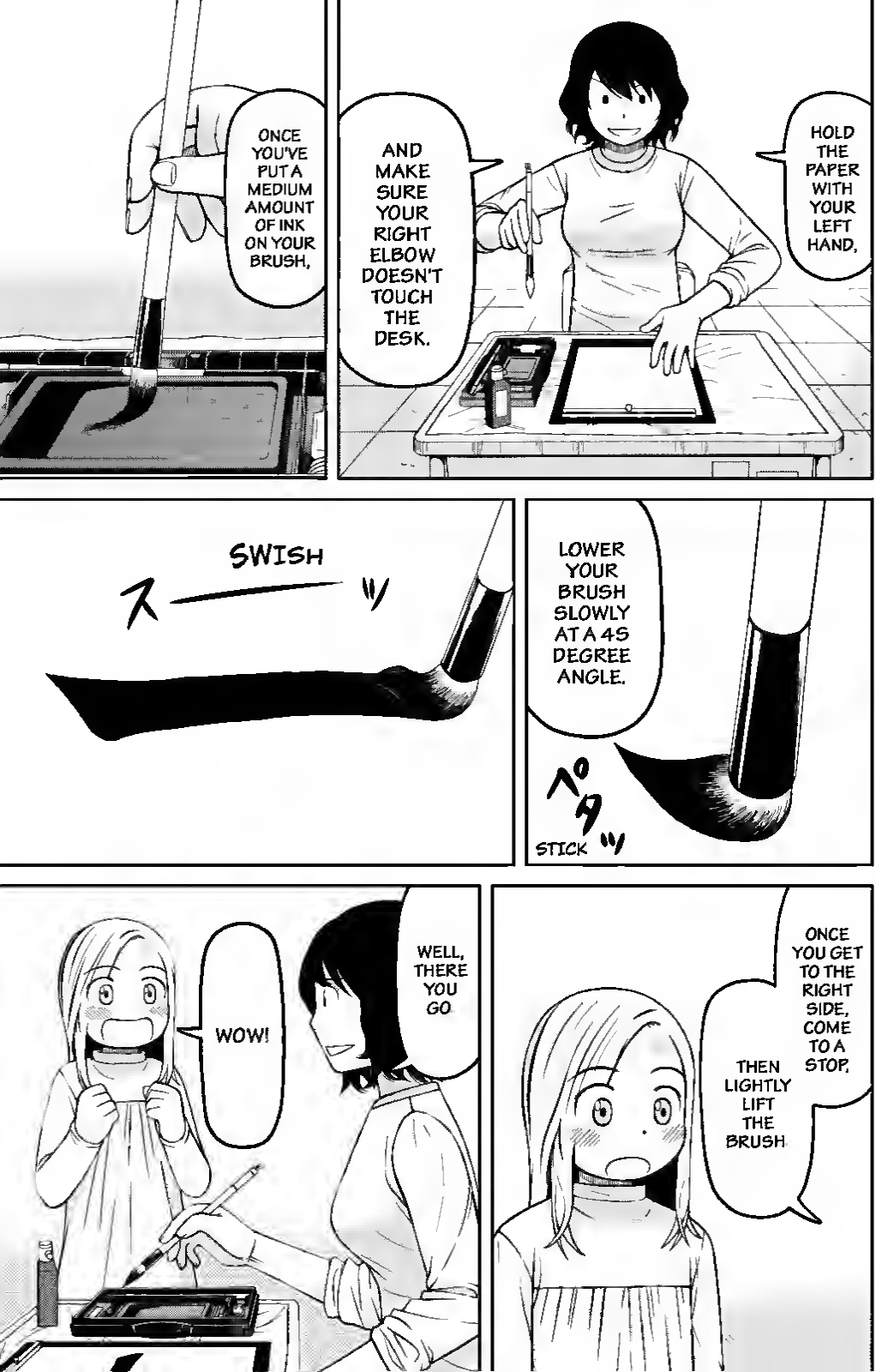

AHA HA HA HA
あはは
WHAT?
ME?!
I SAID YOU CAN WRITE TWO OF YOUR FAVORITE CHARACTERS, BUT PLEASE MAKE SURE THEY AREN'T TOO WEIRD
ESPECIALLY YOU, TAKAHASHI


BECAUSE IT'S SO JAPANESE AND SO COOL
NINA'S ALWAYS WANTED TO TRY CALLIGRAPHY

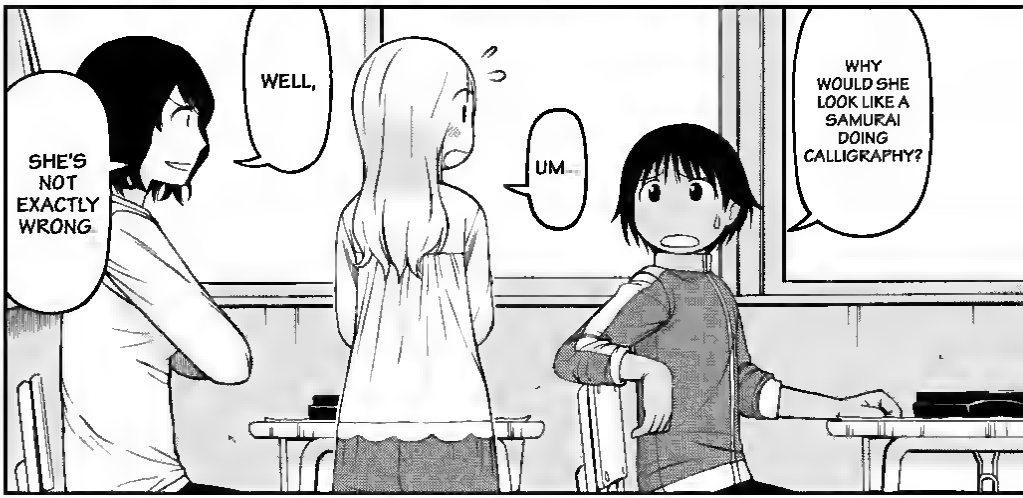

NINA, IS THIS YOUR FIRST TIME DOING CALLIGRAPHY?
YEP.

MY HANDS GET DIRTY, AND IF I GET INK ON MY CLOTHES, MY MOM GETS SUPER ANGRY
I HATE IT.

OKAY
THIS IS YOUR FIRST TIME DOING CALLIGRAPHY, SHIMAZAKI, SO LET'S START WITH THE BASICS
IF YOU WORRY ABOUT GETTING YOUR HANDS DIRTY, YOU'LL NEVER GET BETTER
OKAY
MAKE SURE YOU PAY ATTENTION TO WHAT I DO
READY?
WHEN YOU HOLD THE BRUSH, MAKE SURE YOU DON'T GRIP IT TOO TIGHTLY
LIGHTLY LIKE THIS
MAKE SURE YOU SIT UP STRAIGHT
THE FIRST IMPORTANT THING IS POSTURE

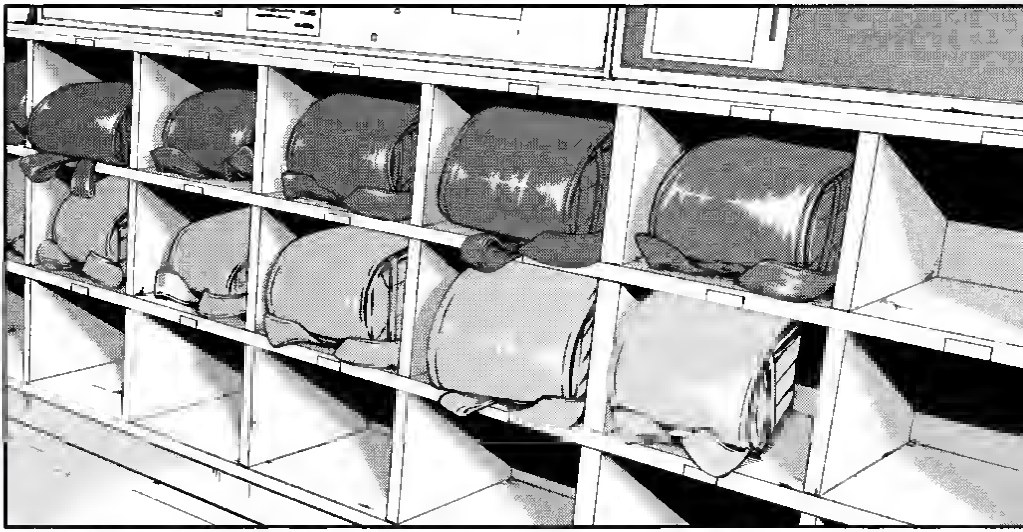

ONCE YOU'VE PUT A MEDIUM AMOUNT OF INK ON YOUR BRUSH,
AND MAKE SURE YOUR RIGHT ELBOW DOESN'T TOUCH THE DESK.
HOLD THE PAPER WITH YOUR LEFT HAND,
SWISH
LOWER YOUR BRUSH SLOWLY AT A 45 DEGREE ANGLE.
STICK
WOW!
WELL, THERE YOU GO
ONCE YOU GET TO THE RIGHT SIDE, COME TO A STOP,
THEN LIGHTLY LIFT THE BRUSH

WHAT? A SAMURAI?
HAHA, YOU THINK SO?
YOU'RE LIKE A SAMURAI!
YOU'RE SO COOL, SENSEI!


SHE'S NOT EXACTLY WRONG
WELL,
UM...
WHY WOULD SHE LOOK LIKE A SAMURAI DOING CALLIGRAPHY?

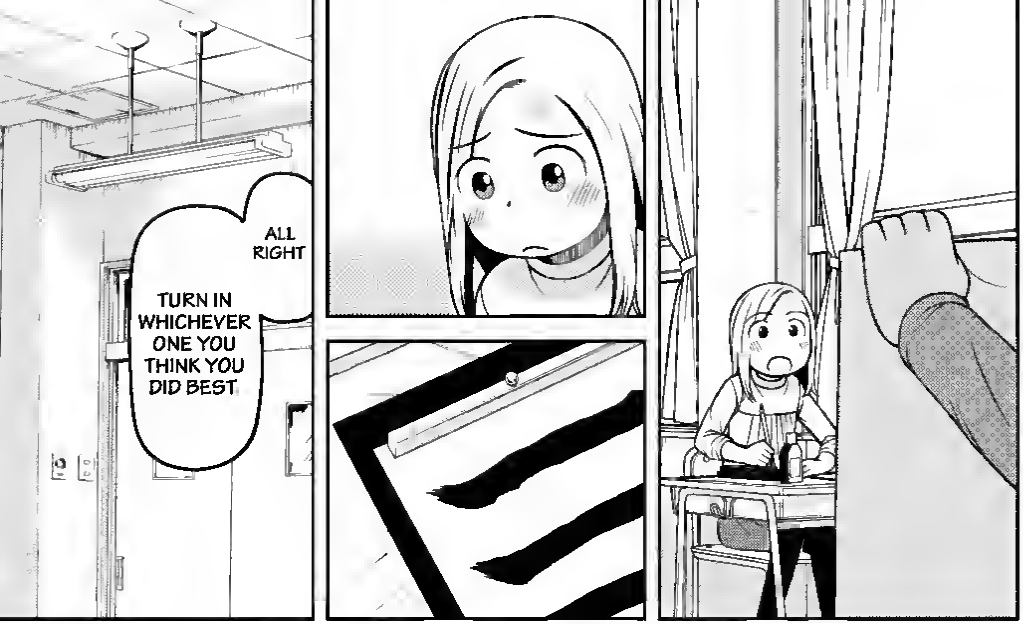
OKAY
FIRST, LET'S HAVE YOU WRITE THIS "ICHI."
I SEE.
BOTH CALLIGRAPHY AND BUSHIDO ARE ALIKE IN THE FACT THAT THEY ARE USED TO POLISH YOUR METHOD AND YOUR HEART.

SPLAT
ベタッ
DRAG
ズー
ALL RIGHT, LET'S HAVE YOU WRITE "ICHI" FIVE TIMES
WE'LL JUST PRACTICE FOR NOW
OKAY
THIS IS HARD...
HA HA
WELL, IT'S YOUR FIRST TIME
HUH?
...
IT'S WEIRD

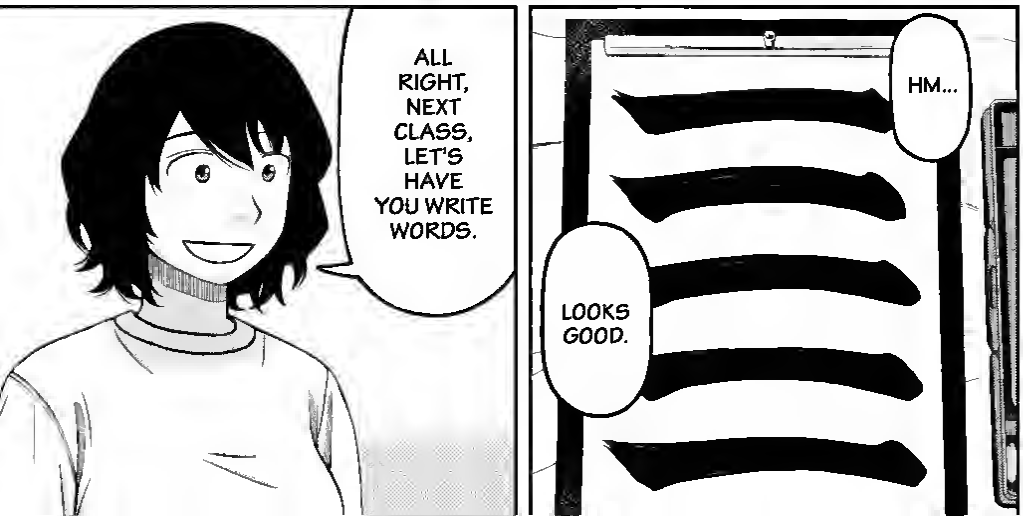


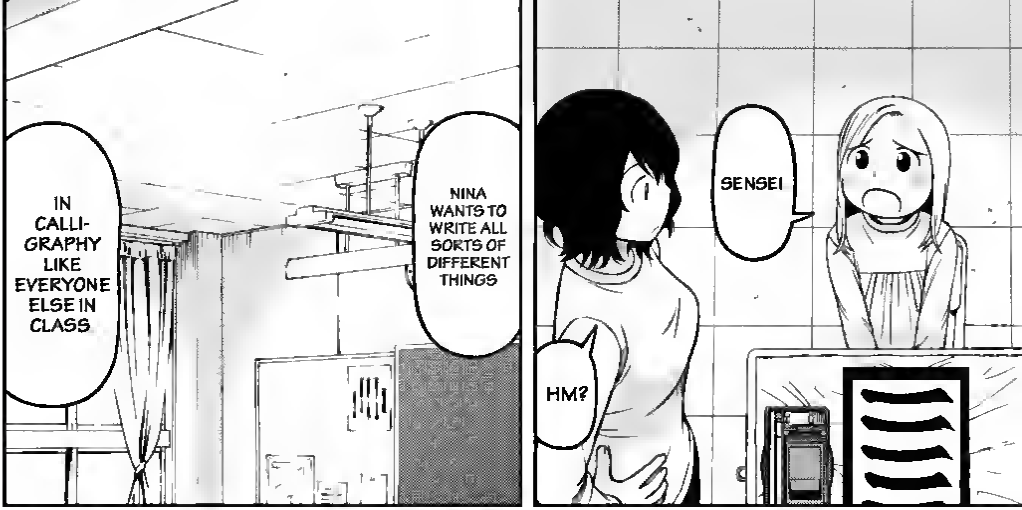
KANJI BAKA (IDIOT)

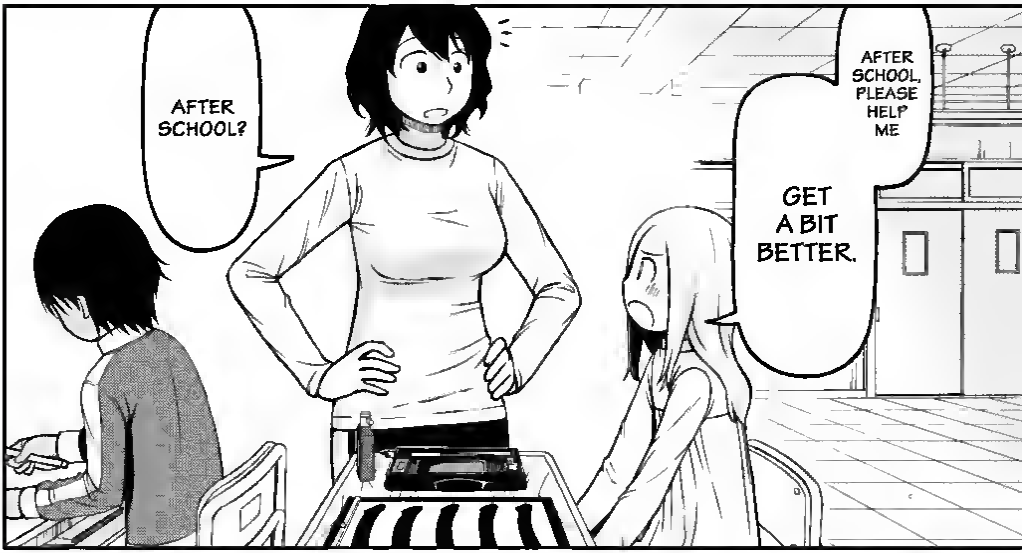
KANJI HANABATAKE (FLOWER GARDEN)

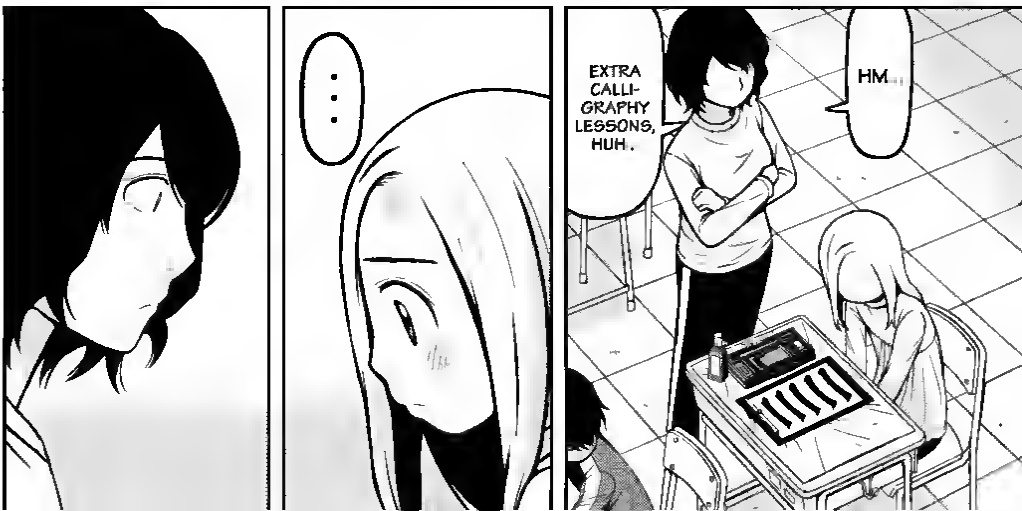

ALL RIGHT
TURN IN WHICHEVER ONE YOU THINK YOU DID BEST

キーン
DING
DONG
コーン
カーン
DING
DONG
コーン
HOW ARE YOU DOING, SHIMAZAKI?

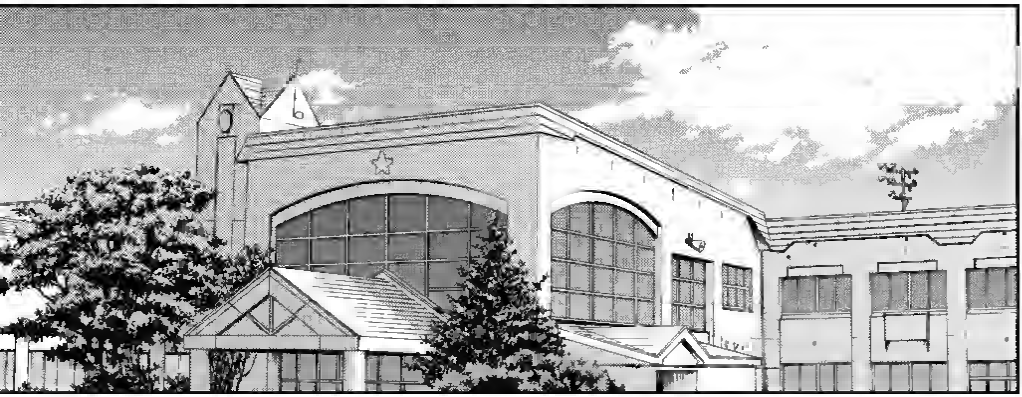

ALL RIGHT, NEXT CLASS, LET'S HAVE YOU WRITE WORDS.
HM...
LOOKS GOOD.


NINA WANTS TO WRITE ALL SORTS OF DIFFERENT THINGS
IN CALLI-GRAPHY LIKE EVERYONE ELSE IN CLASS
SENSEI
HM?

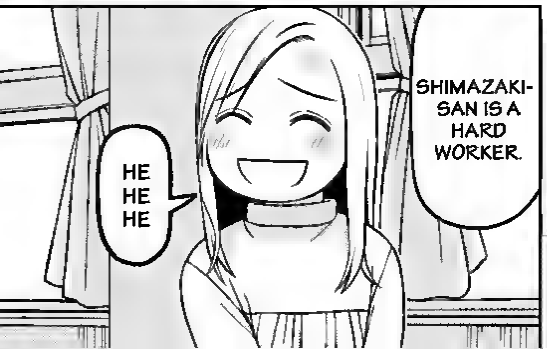

AFTER SCHOOL?
AFTER SCHOOL, PLEASE HELP ME GET A BIT BETTER.


...
EXTRA CALLI-GRAPHY LESSONS, HUH.
HM...

ALL RIGHT
LET'S PRACTICE A LITTLE MORE.
OKAY!

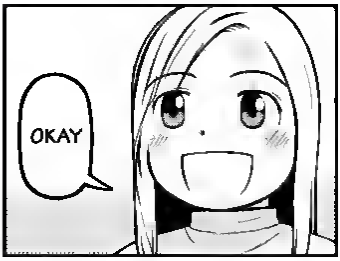


YOU ASKED FOR THOSE?
YOU REALLY ARE WEIRD.

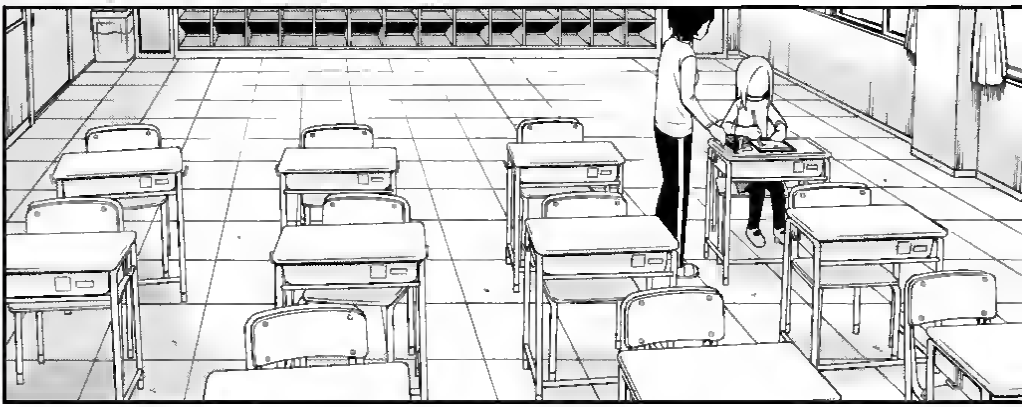

SHIMAZAKI-SAN IS A HARD WORKER.
HE HE HE

EXTRA LESSONS, HUH.

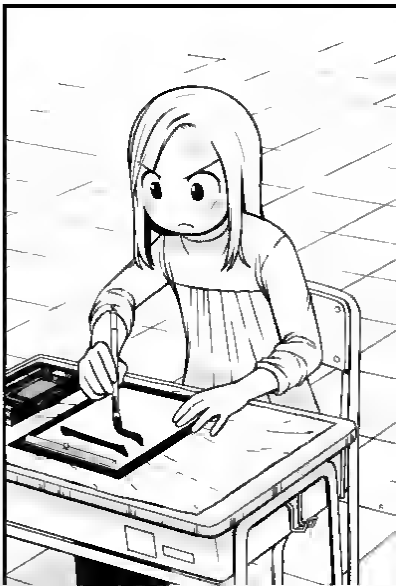
ALL RIGHT, LET'S START.

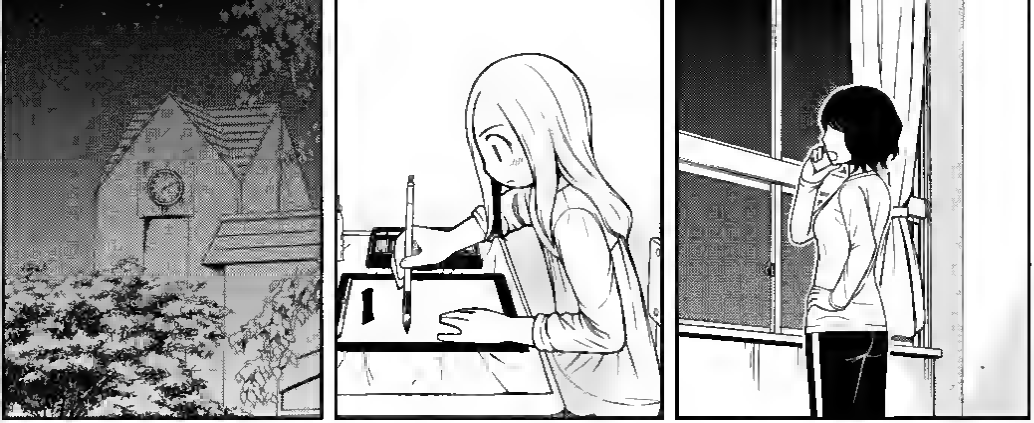

OKAY

SORRY, SHIMAZAKI-SAN.
WELL, SORRY, BUT WE'RE GONNA HEAD HOME THEN



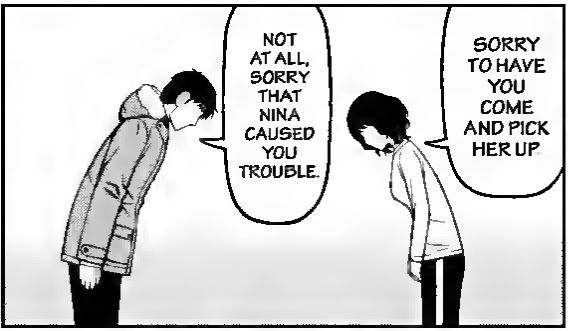
次はニーナって書いてみよう
LET'S HAVE YOU WRITE "NINA" NEXT
はい
OKAY

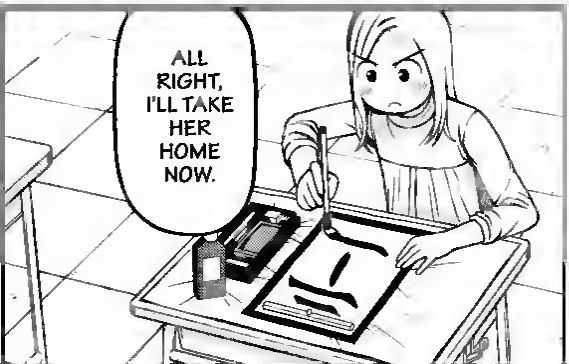




OH,
HELLO.

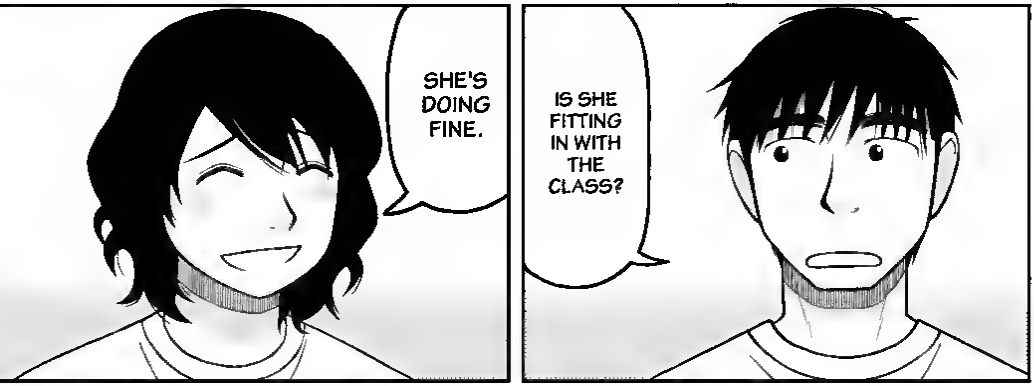
GOOD EVENING...


NOT AT ALL, SORRY THAT NINA CAUSED YOU TROUBLE.
SORRY TO HAVE YOU COME AND PICK HER UP


ALL RIGHT, I'LL TAKE HER HOME NOW.

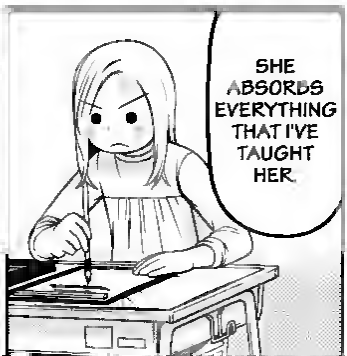
TAP
TAP
NINA,
IT'S ABOUT TIME TO.
EH, LET HER WRITE A FEW MORE.
OKAY...
HUH?

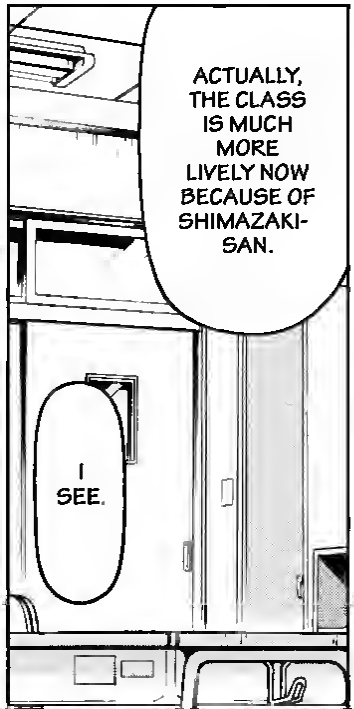
HOW'S NINA DOING?
SENSEI

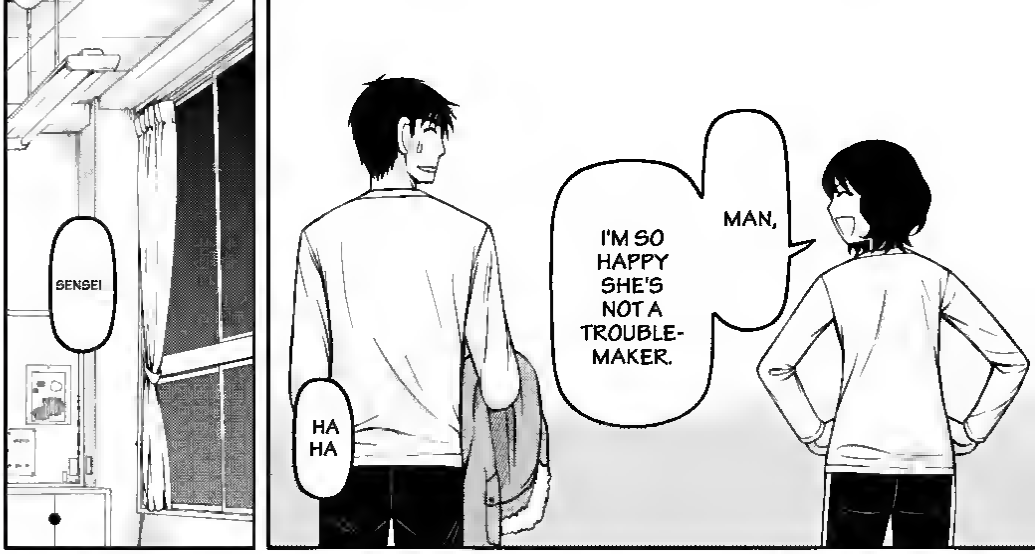

SHE'S DOING FINE.
IS SHE FITTING IN WITH THE CLASS?

IT ACTUALLY MAKES THINGS FUN...
FOR ME, THE TEACHER.

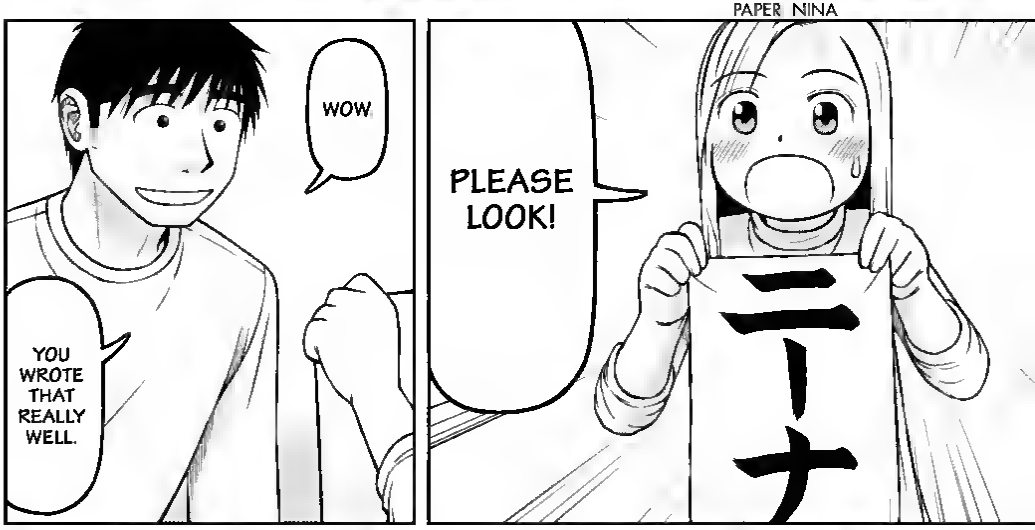
SHE LIKES A LOT OF THINGS.


SHE ABSORBS EVERYTHING THAT I'VE TAUGHT HER.


ACTUALLY, THE CLASS IS MUCH MORE LIVELY NOW BECAUSE OF SHIMAZAKI-SAN.
I SEE.


SENSEI
HA HA
I'M SO HAPPY SHE'S NOT A TROUBLE-MAKER.
MAN,

PAPER NINA


WOW
YOU WROTE THAT REALLY WELL.
PLEASE LOOK!
ニーナ

WHY ARE YOU HERE, SHUTARO?
?
YOU'VE JUST NOW REALIZED I'M HERE?
ニーナ

YOU KNOW...

EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE EXTRA LESSONS,
YOU SHOULDN'T STAY SO LATE.
YOU'LL WORRY YOUR GRAND-PARENTS.
OKAY
SORRY

WHEN NINA GETS BETTER
SHE'LL TRY TO WRITE YOUR NAME TOO, SHUTARO.
HAHA. I LOOK FORWARD TO IT.

CALLI-GRAPHY THAT MUCH FUN?
WAS WRITING

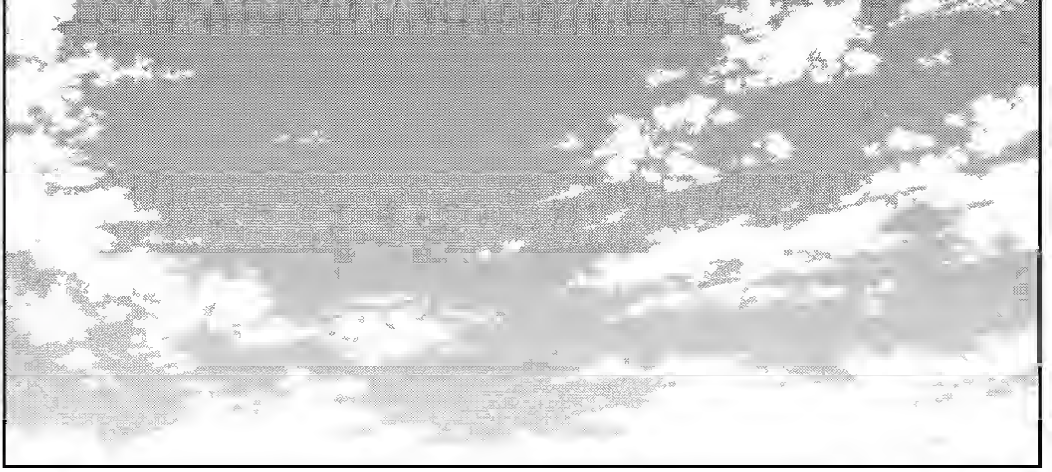
YEP.

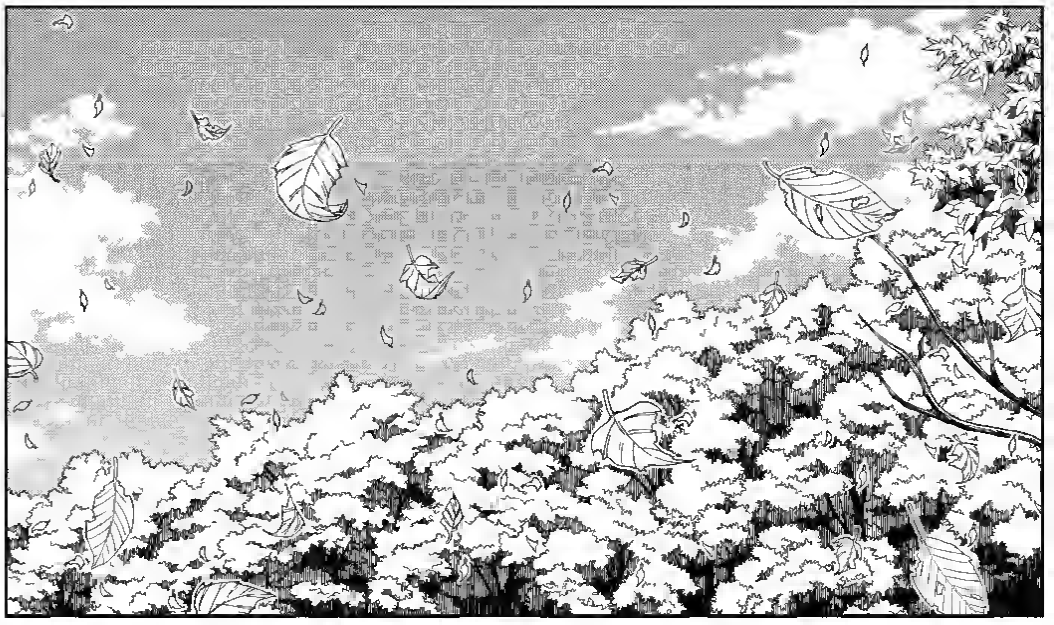
END

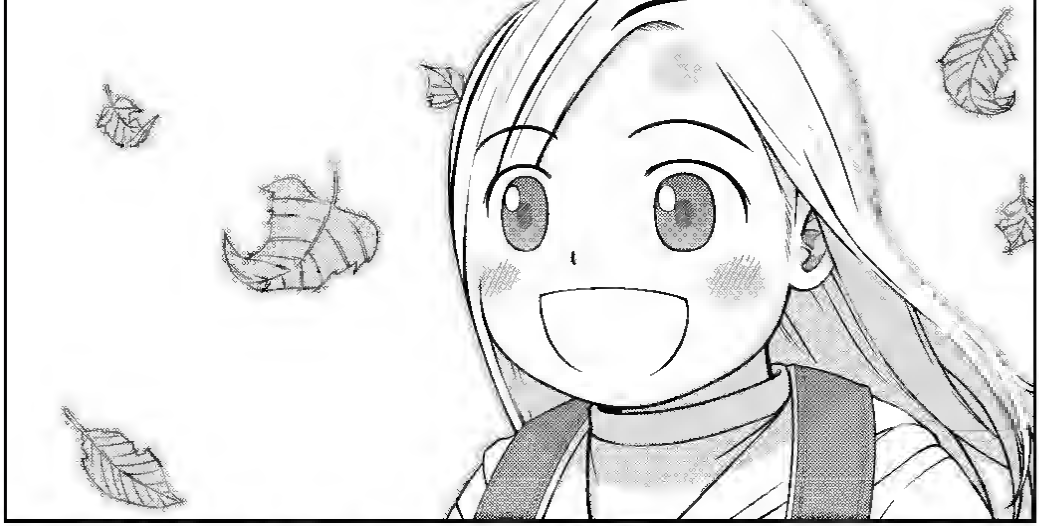
LET'S FORGIVE HER IF THEY'RE JUST A LITTLE DIRTY!

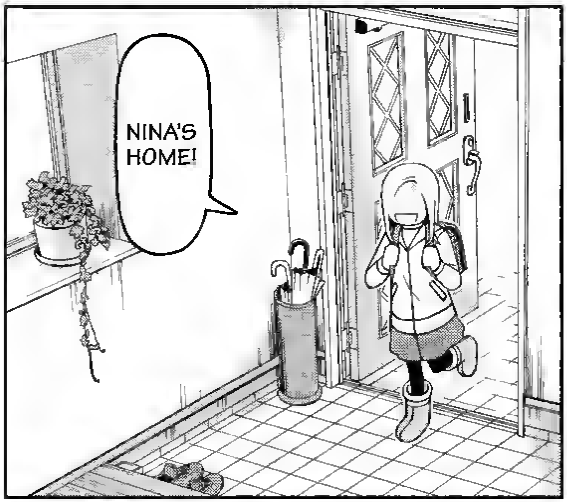
CHAPTER 37

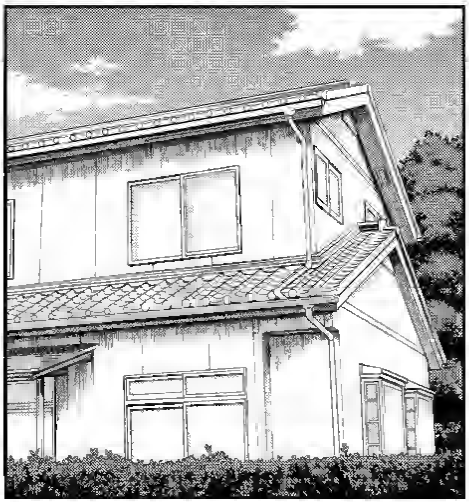
TOMORROW CAN'T COME SOON ENOUGH





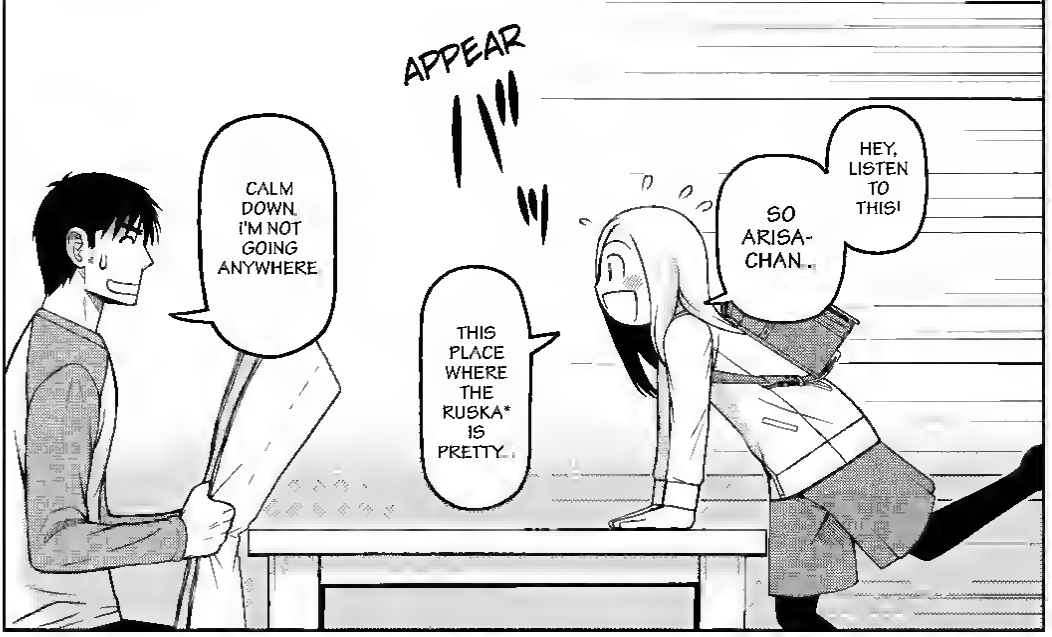



NINA'S HOME!

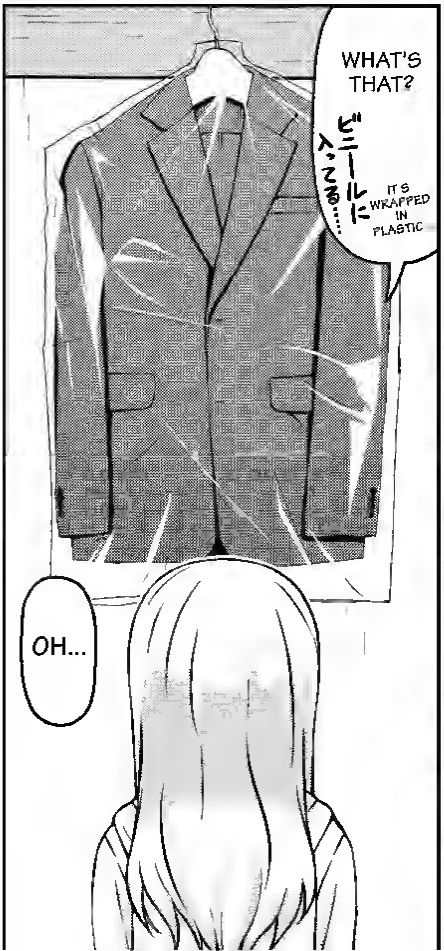


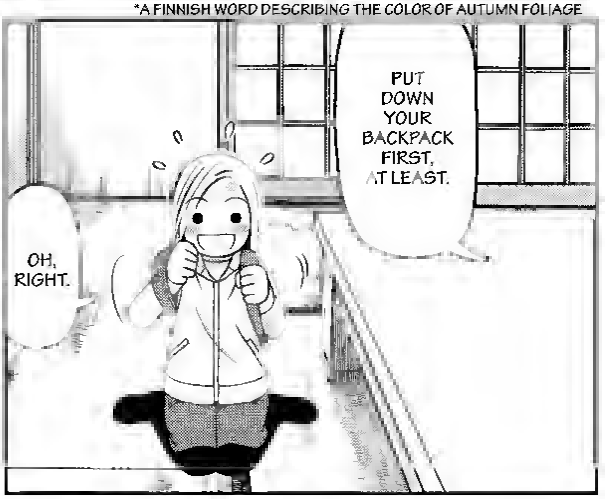
WELCOME HOME
HEY.

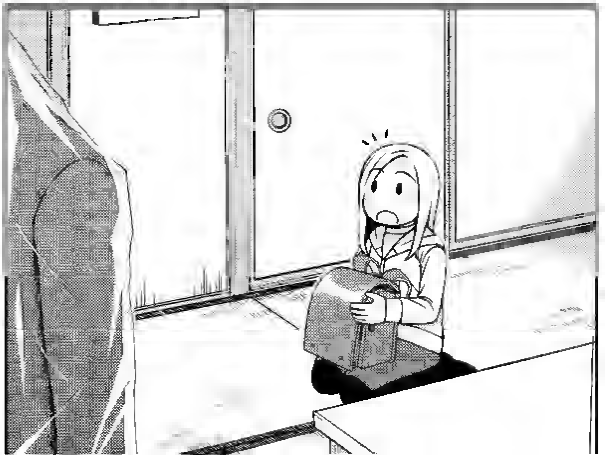
STOMP
STOMP



*A FINNISH WORD DESCRIBING THE COLOR OF AUTUMN FOLIAGE

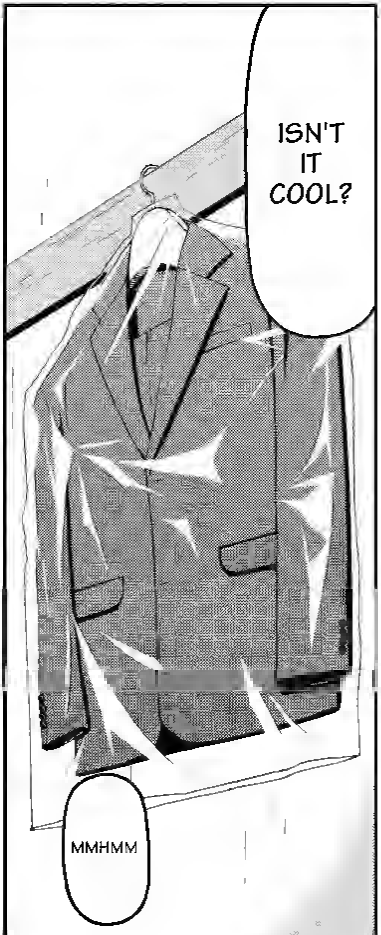






WOW.
THAT'S THE SUIT I'M GOING TO WEAR TOMORROW.

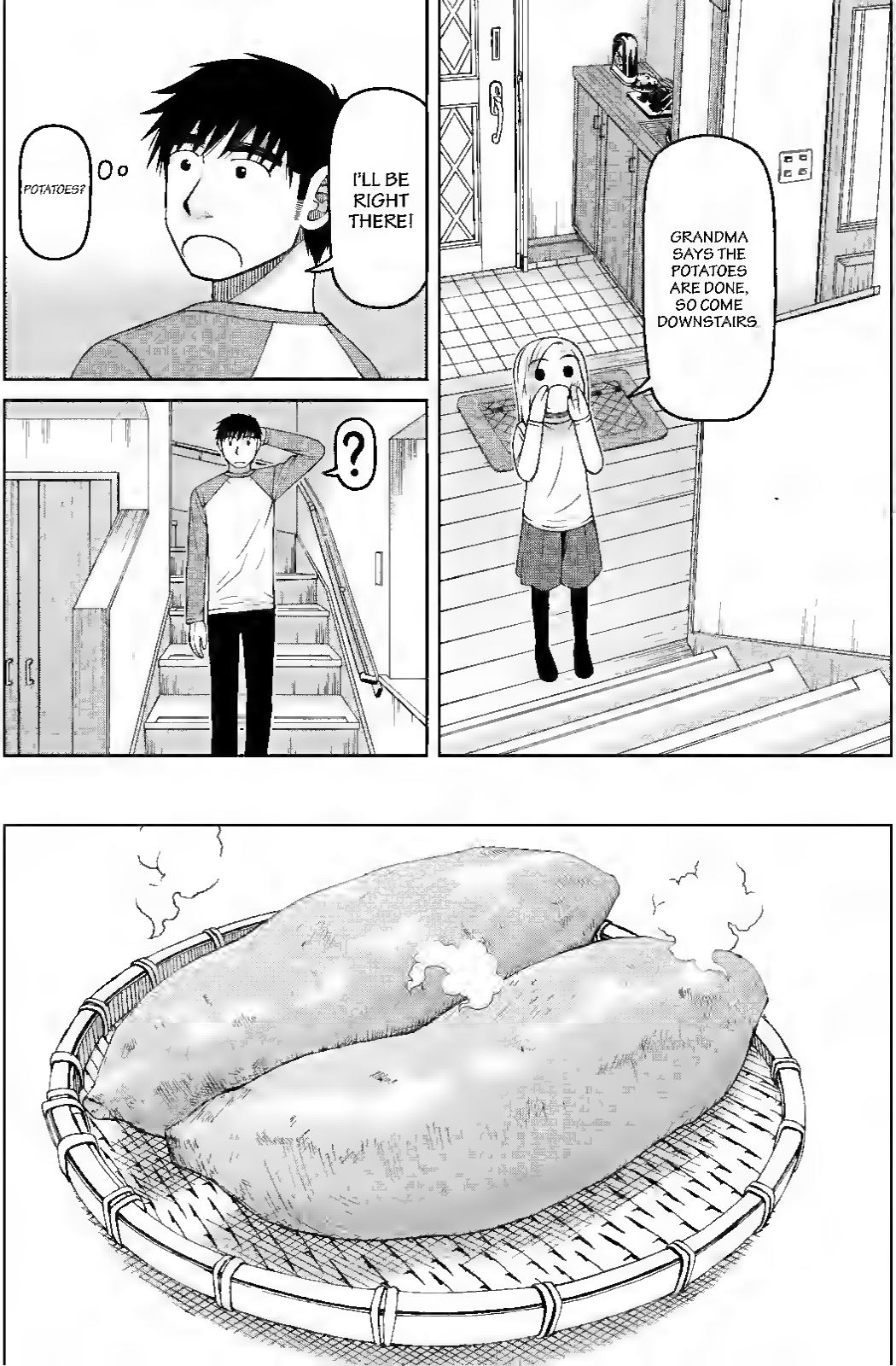
HA...
YEAH.
NOW YOU'LL LOOK LIKE AN ACTUAL ADULT, SHUTARO


ISN'T IT COOL?
MMHMM

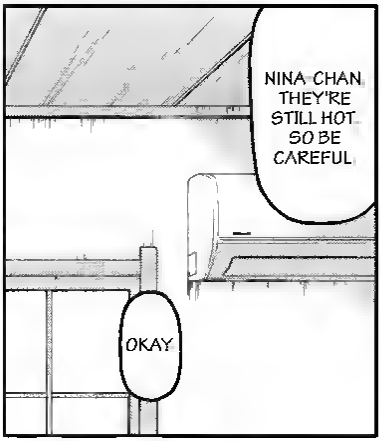
DID YOU JUST SNEAK IN A REALLY MEAN COMMENT?
HUH?

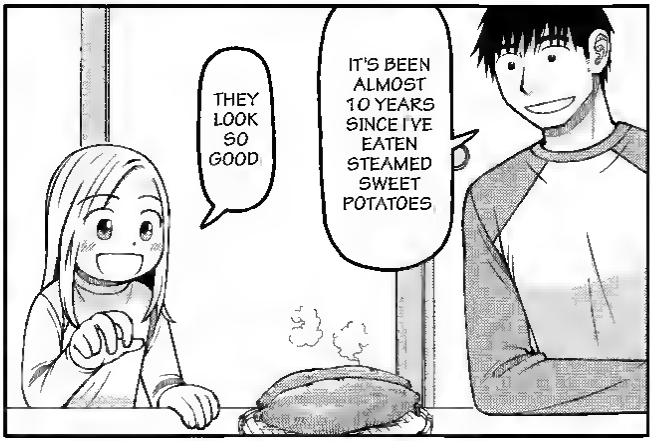
YEAH.
IT'S TOMORROW!
IT'S THE DAY OF MY JOB INTERVIEW.
THE DAY WE GO TO AKIBA.
NINA CAN'T WAIT TO GO.
YEAH...
NINA'S REALLY EXCITED.
I AM, TOO.

ALL RIGHT
TAP
トン
TAP
トン
NOW AS LONG AS I MAKE A GOOD IMPRESSION AT THE INTERVIEW TOMORROW
I THINK THIS TAKES CARE OF ALL THE DOCUMENTS
SHUTARO.

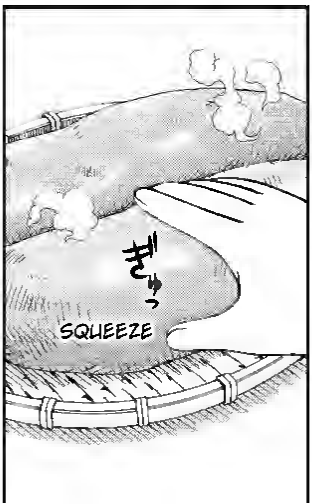

POTATOES?
I'LL BE RIGHT THERE!
?
GRANDMA SAYS THE POTATOES ARE DONE, SO COME DOWNSTAIRS

WOW
THESE ARE SOME AWESOME SWEET POTATOES
SO BIG!
AREN'T THEY GREAT?
TAMURA-SAN GAVE US LOTS


NINA-CHAN, THEY'RE STILL HOT, SO BE CAREFUL
OKAY


IT'S BEEN ALMOST 10 YEARS SINCE I'VE EATEN STEAMED SWEET POTATOES
THEY LOOK SO GOOD

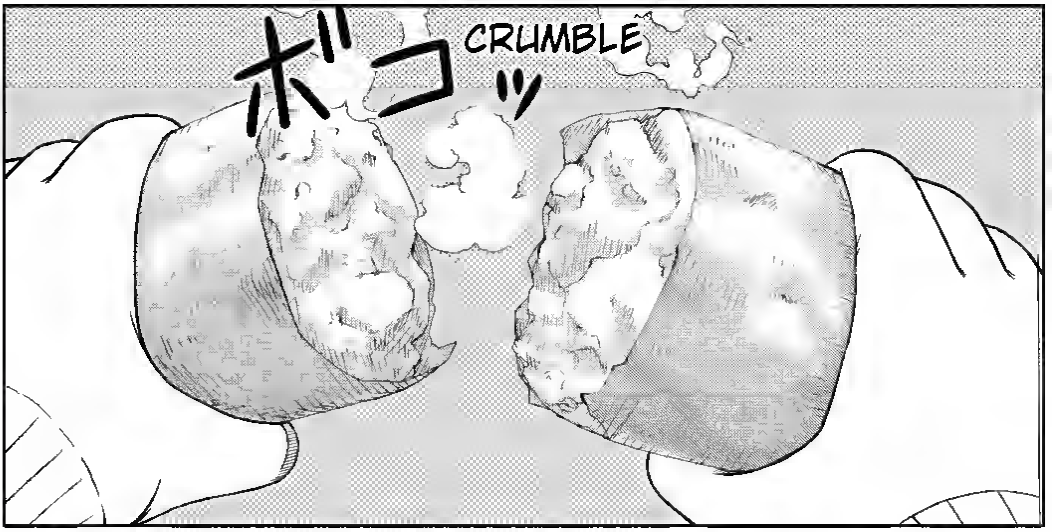
WE JUST WARNED YOU...
SO HOT!
あつーい
OW!

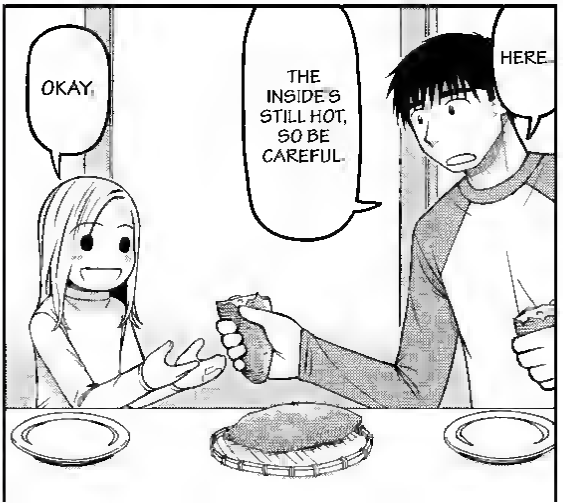

ぎゅっ
SQUEEZE

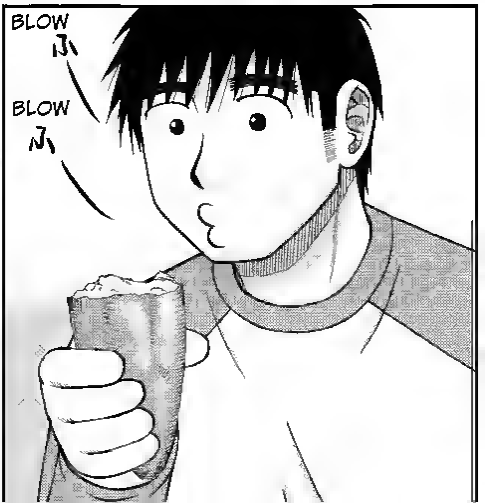
WHY DO YOU HAVE WORK GLOVES?
BECAUSE I USE THEM AT WORK AND THEY WERE IN MY POCKET.

TUG
きゅっ

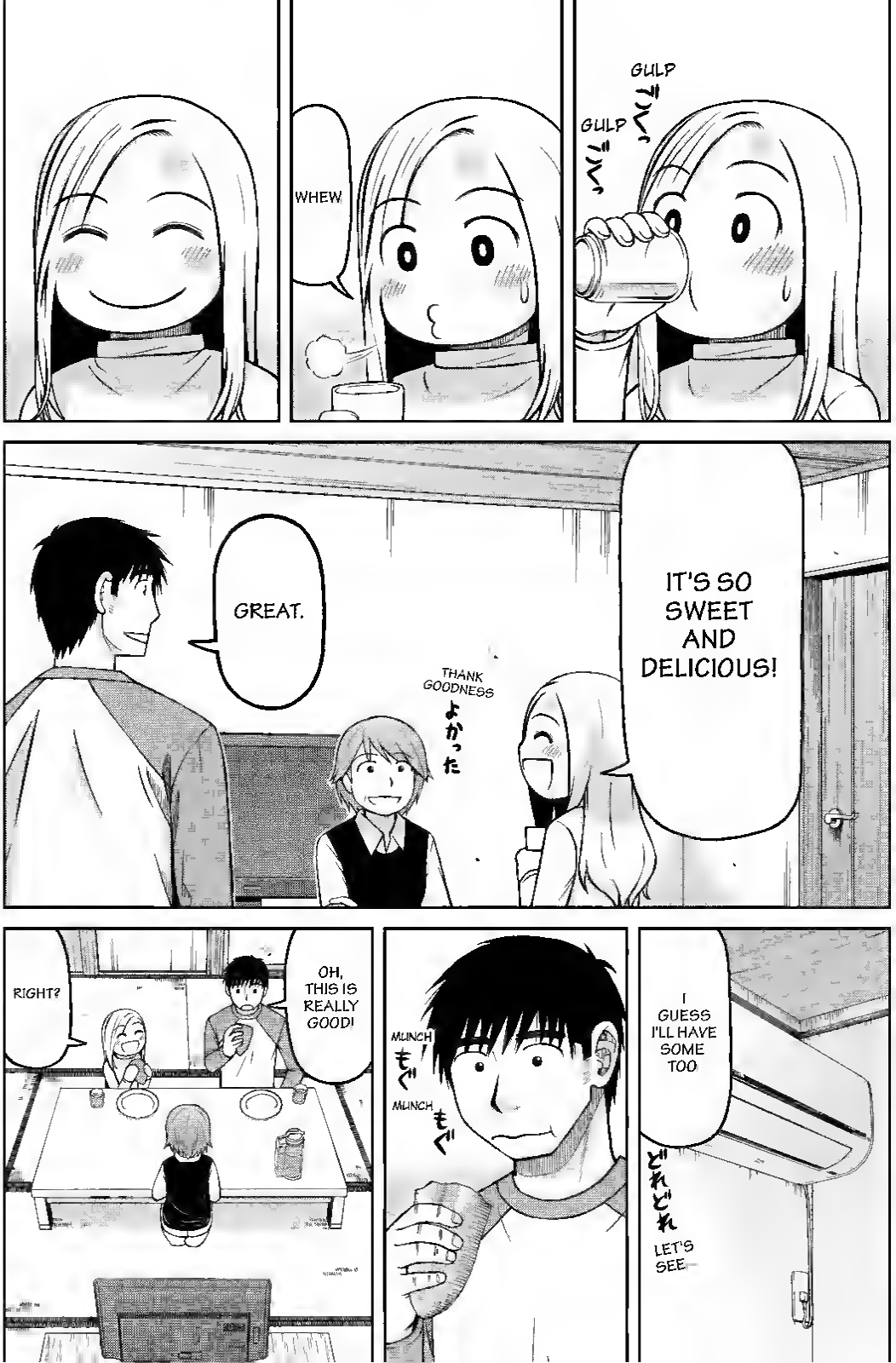
HOLD ON ONE SEC


ボコッ
CRUMBLE

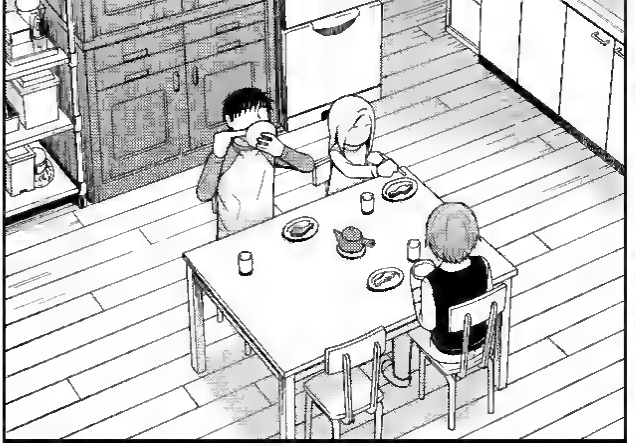

OKAY.
THE INSIDE'S STILL HOT, SO BE CAREFUL.
HERE.

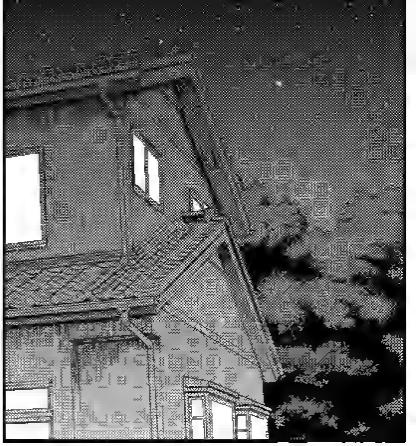

BLOW
BLOW

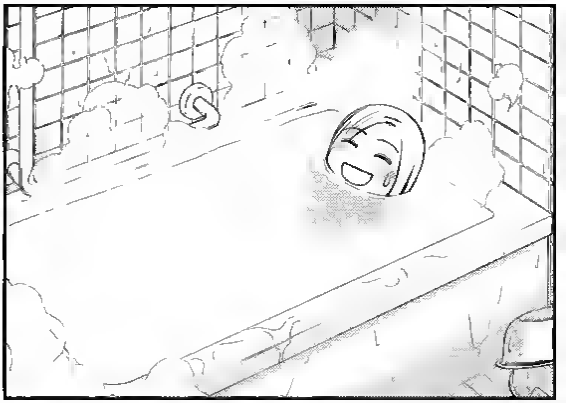
MUNCH
もぎゅっ
BLOW
ふ
BLOW
ふ
HUFF
はふ
HUFF
はふ
HUFF
はふ
ほら麦茶のめ
HERE, HAVE SOME BARLEY TEA
FUG,
FUG,
FUG
DON'T TALK WITH YOUR MOUTH FULL.
WELL, NINA-CHAN?
IS IT GOOD?

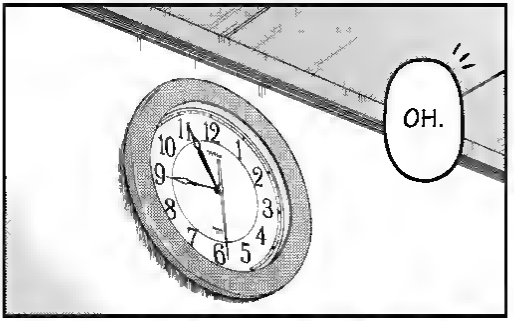

GULP
ゴクン
GULP
ゴクン
WHEW
IT'S SO SWEET AND DELICIOUS!
GREAT.
THANK GOODNESS
よかった
I GUESS I'LL HAVE SOME TOO
どれどれ
LET'S SEE
MUNCH
もぐ
MUNCH
もぐ
OH, THIS IS REALLY GOOD!
RIGHT?

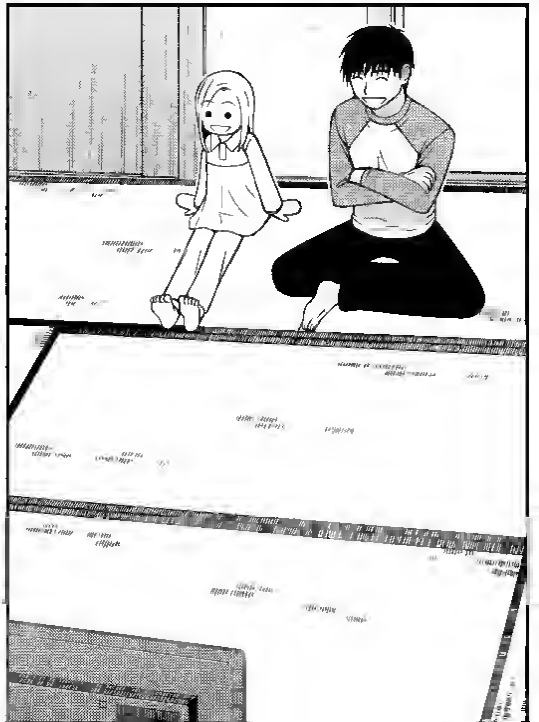
BUT IF YOU EAT TOO MANY POTATOES
YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO EAT DINNER
RIGHT
GRANDMA CAN NINA HAVE MORE?
SURE
SHUTARO
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO ABOUT DINNER?
I HAVE NO IDEA
I THINK OCHAZUKE MIGHT BE GOOD
YEAH
NINA WILL HAVE SOME SALMON OCHAZUKE, TOO
YOU DON'T EAT TOO MUCH OR YOU'LL GET A STOMACHACHE
SALMON OCHAZUKE HUH? AWESOME
THEN I THINK I'LL GRILL SOME SALMON FOR IT

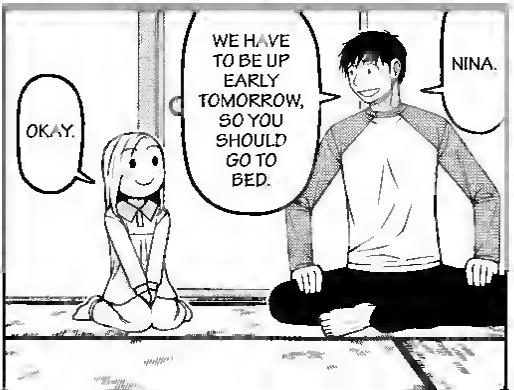




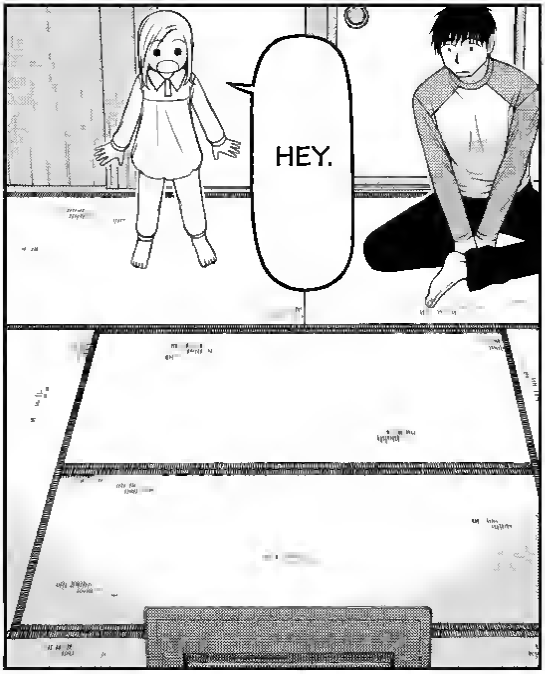



OH.




OKAY.
WE HAVE TO BE UP EARLY TOMORROW, SO YOU SHOULD GO TO BED.
NINA.

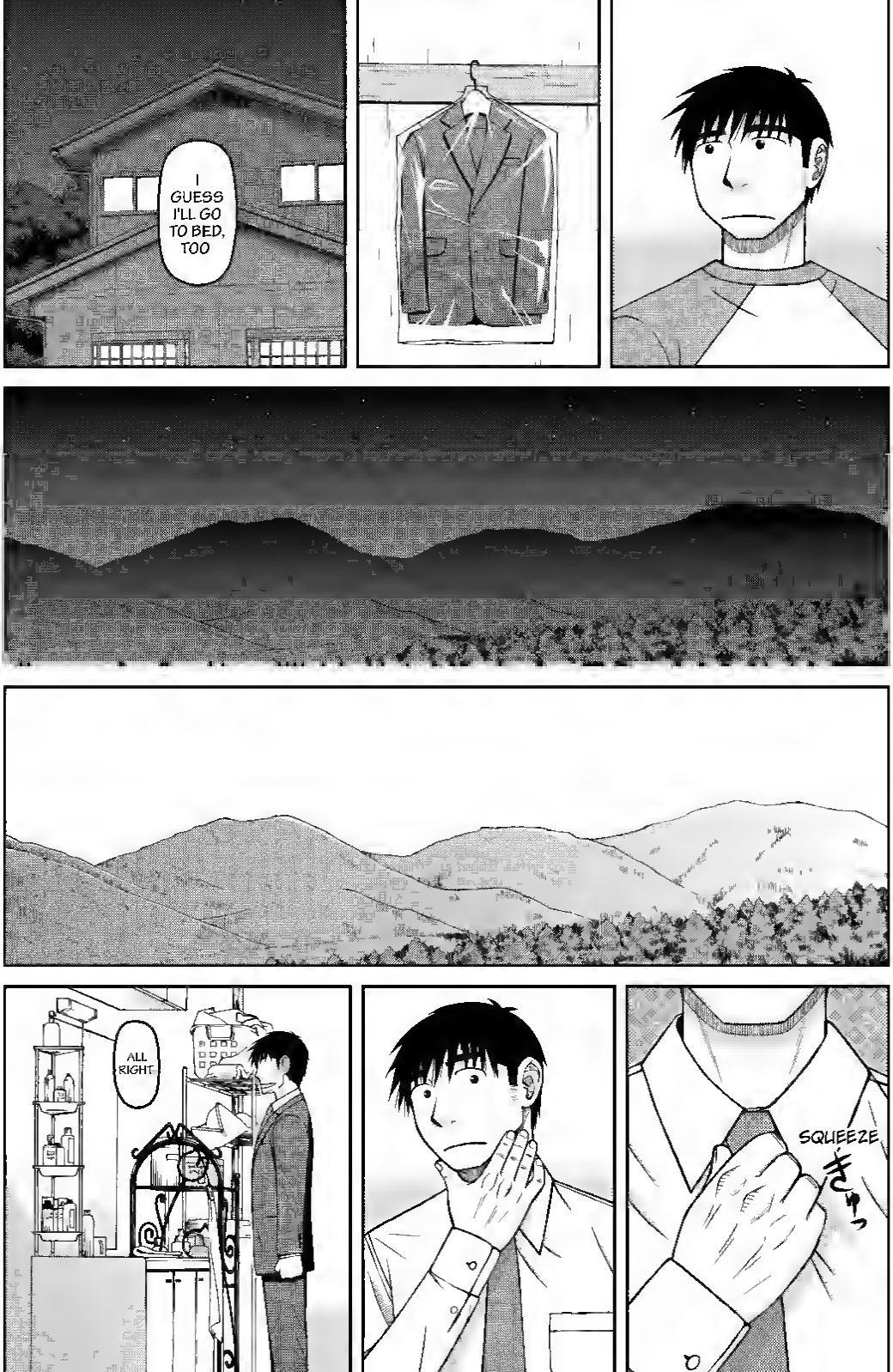
NIGHT
GOOD NIGHT.
OKAY, SHUTARO.

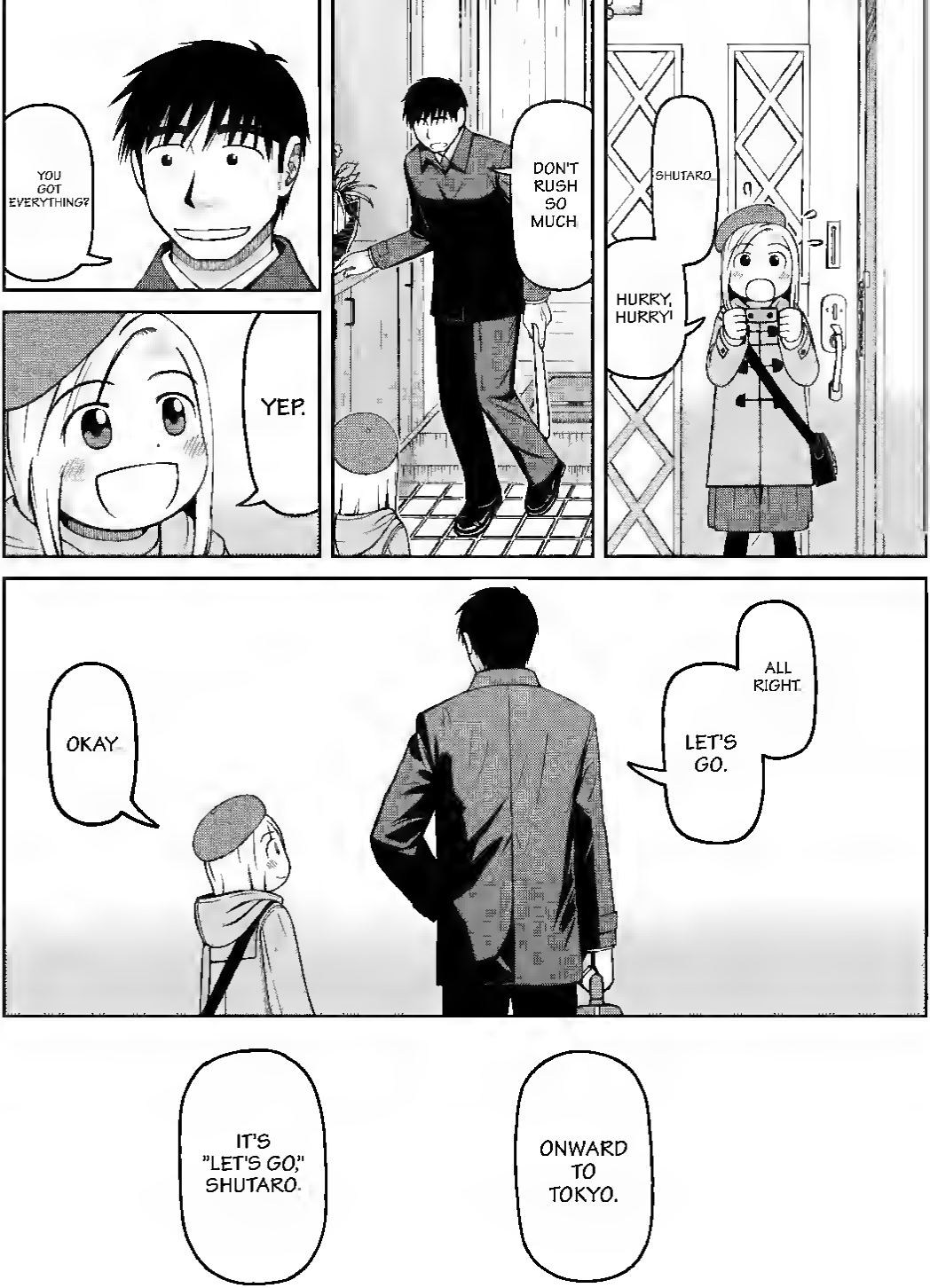

HEY.

TONIGHT, WE'LL BE SHOWING "NARUSEA OF THE VALLEY OF THE WIND"
RIGHT AFTER THESE MESSAGES

NO.
LET'S WATCH IT TOGETHER!
IT LOOKS REALLY GOOD
おもしろそう
AN ANIME!
THEY'RE PLAYING AN ANIME!

GOOD NIGHT
NIGHT
OH, YEAH
IT'LL BE A WASTE IF YOU'RE TOO TIRED
TO HAVE FUN IN AKIBA TOMORROW
WHEW


I GUESS I'LL GO TO BED, TOO
ALL RIGHT
SQUEEZE
きゅっ



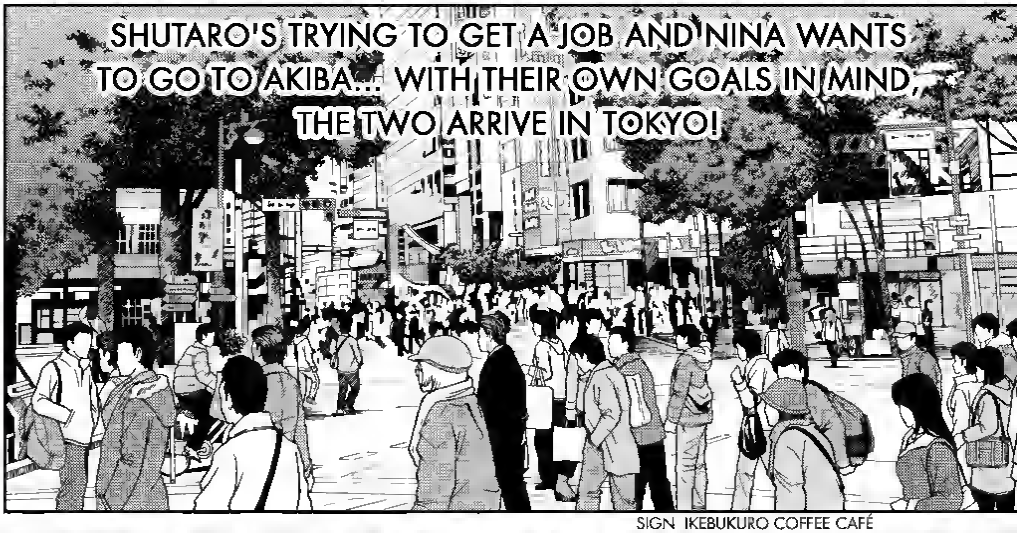
END

TOKYO AND AKIBA ARE WAITING FOR THEM!!

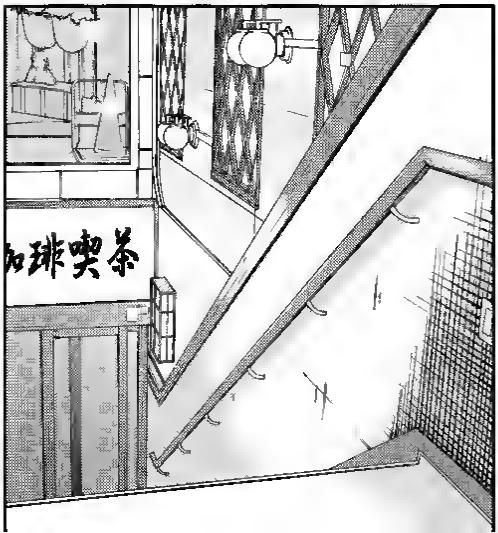
CHAPTER 38

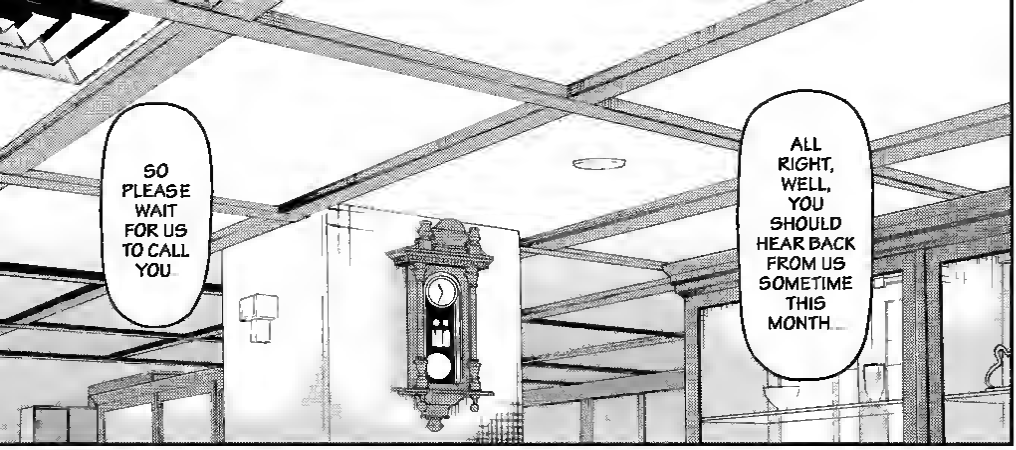
PILGRIMAGE TO AKIBA
(PART ONE)

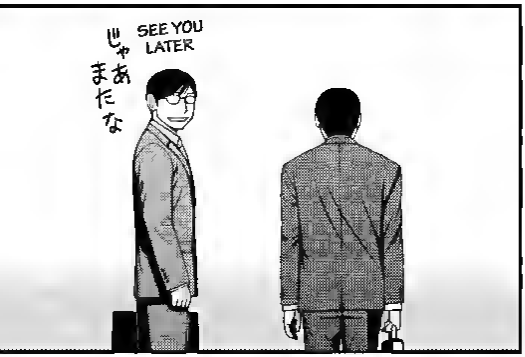
SIGN: IKEBUKURO STATION EAST ENTRANCE

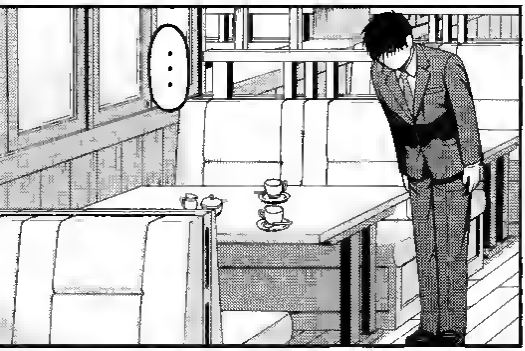


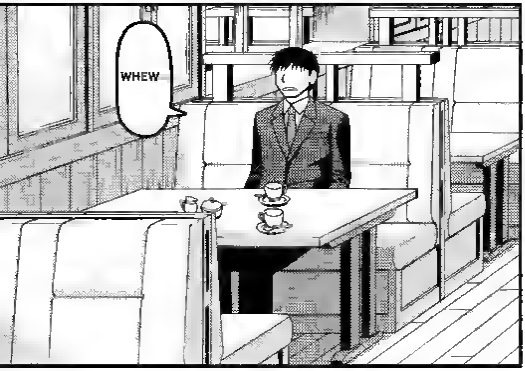
SIGN: IKEBUKURO COFFEE CAFÉ




ALL RIGHT, WELL, YOU SHOULD HEAR BACK FROM US SOMETIME THIS MONTH...
SO PLEASE WAIT FOR US TO CALL YOU


じゃあまたな
SEE YOU LATER


...


WHEW

THANK YOU.

THE INTERVIEW'S OVER.
AND JUST LIKE THAT...

THAT WASN'T VERY LONG, BUT I DON'T THINK IT WENT BADLY...

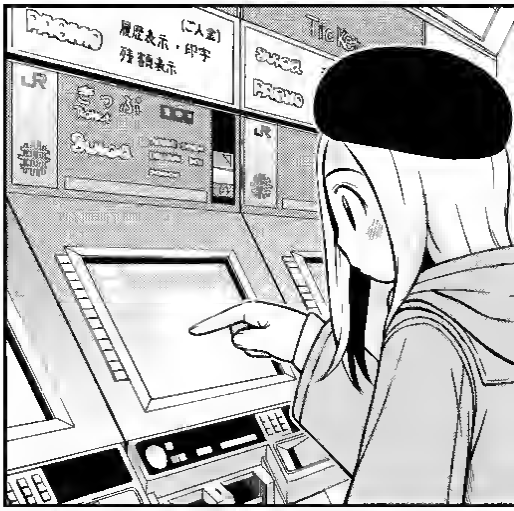
CLACK
10:40
THAT WAS ONLY ABOUT 30 MINUTES.

NINA!

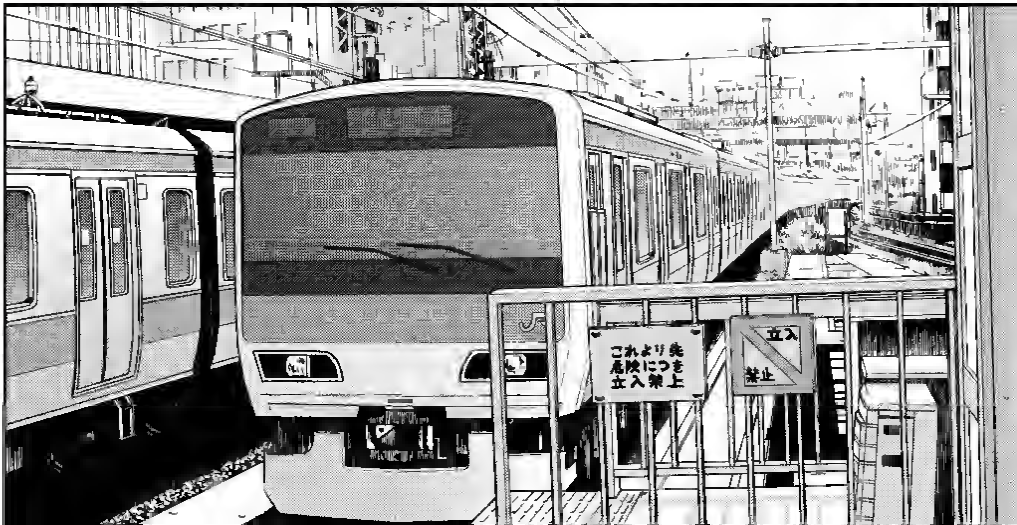
OH.

I HOPE...

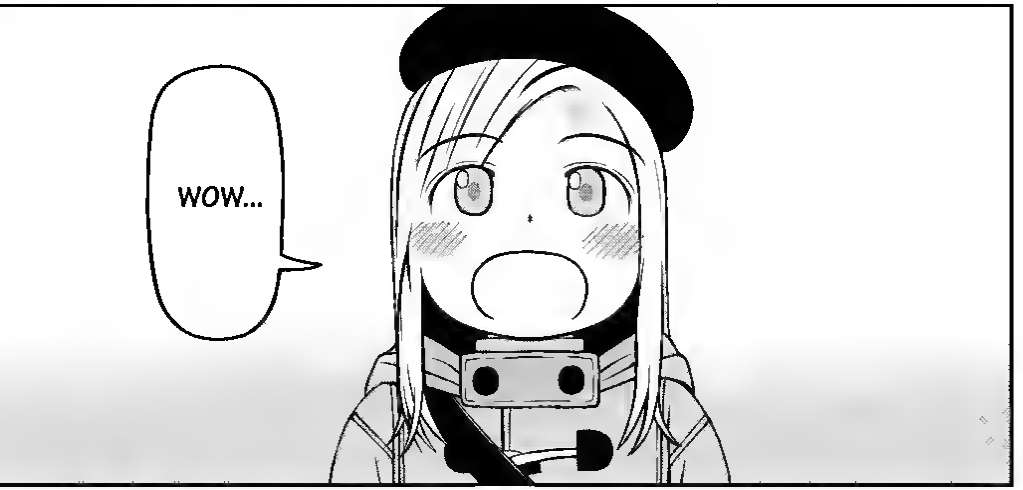
NINA,
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING
HUH?
SHUTARO, WHAT ABOUT WORK?
HAHA.
I'M ALREADY DONE
DID YOU GET THE JOB?
UM...
WELL
I THINK IT WENT FINE
NOW,
LET'S SHIFT GEARS AND GO ENJOY AKIBA
OKAY



SIGN: CAUTION. NO TRESPASSING BEYOND THIS POINT.



JR
秋葉原駅
Akihabara Station


WOW...

AMAZING

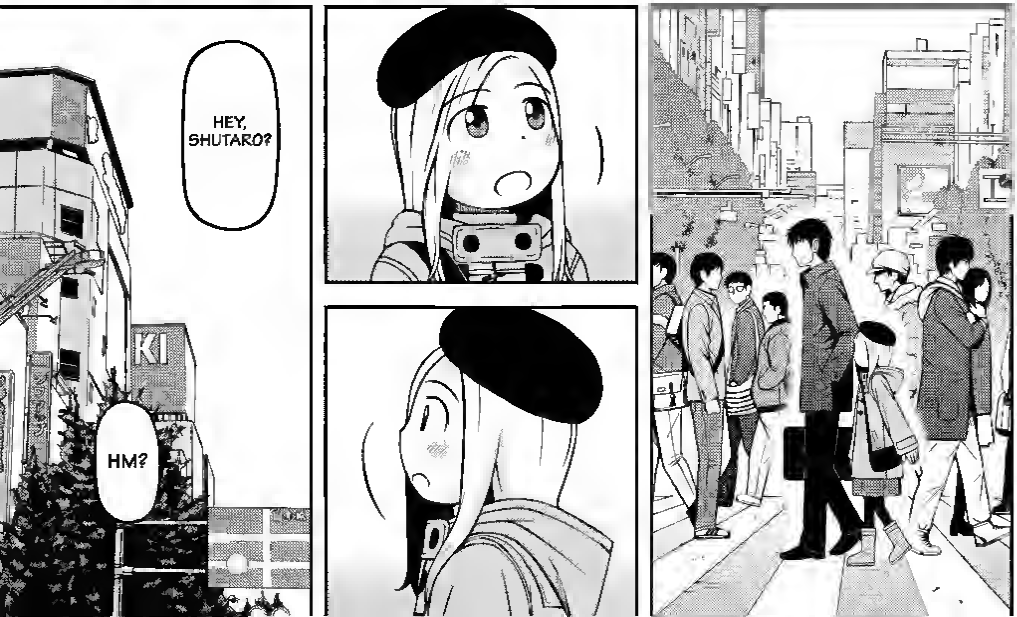
AWESOME

SO COOL!
AKIBA'S...

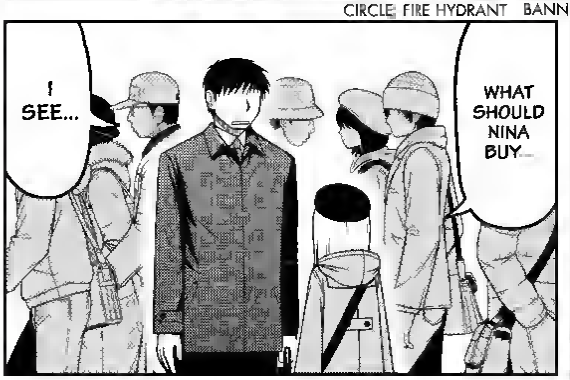
NINA'S ALWAYS WANTED TO COME HERE!
OF COURSE!
YOU'RE SUPER EXCITED, AREN'T YOU?

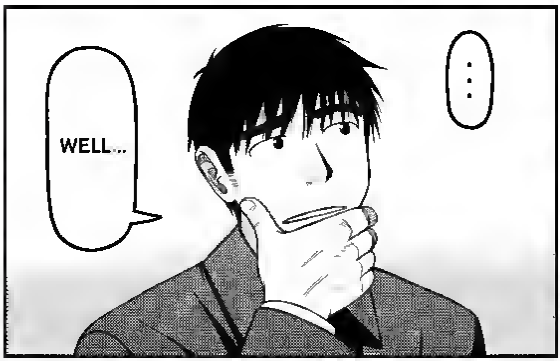
WHY DON'T WE JUST WALK AROUND FOR NOW?
OKAY
WE'VE GOT A BIT BEFORE LUNCH, SO...
SHUTARO, WHERE SHOULD WE GO? WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

SIGN: MOMOMOTO NANAE



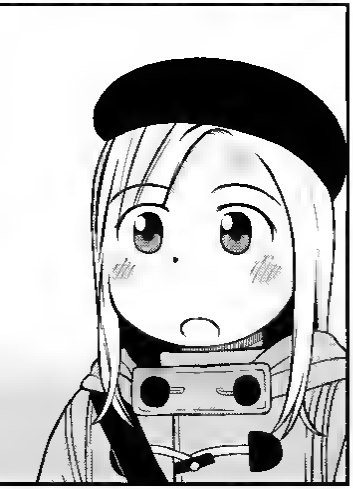
CIRCLE: FIRE HYDRANT BANNER: LET'S ALL MAKE AKIBA A SAFE, RELAXING, HAPPY PLACE

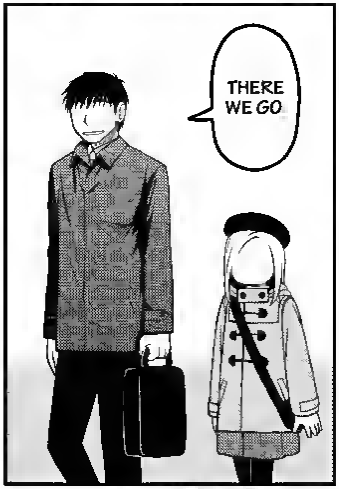




SIGN: PURIKURA

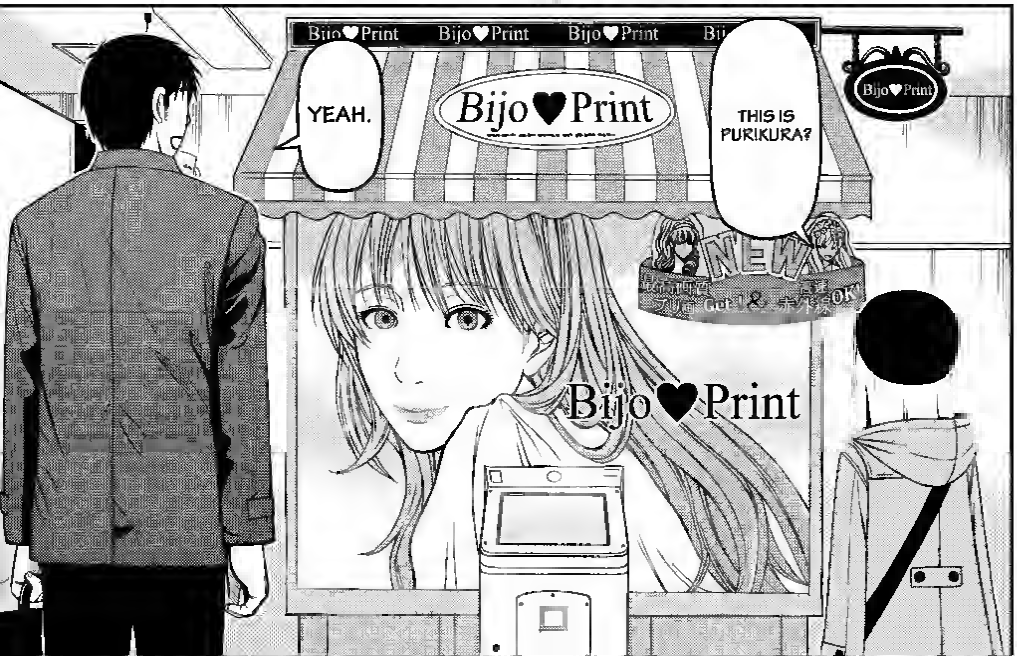
SIGN: THERE ARE MANY DIFFERENT MACHINES. PLEASE USE ONE TO COMMEMORATE YOUR VISIT TO AKIHABARA.



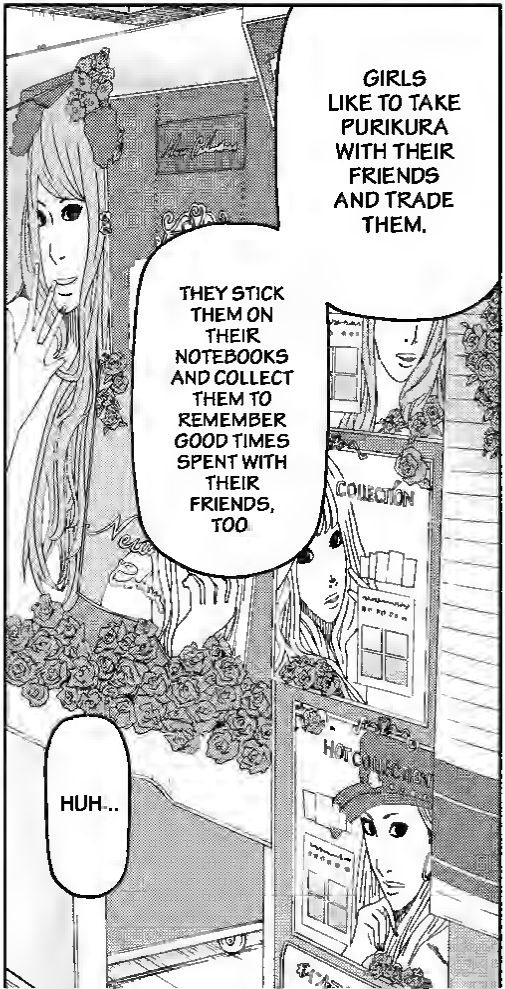


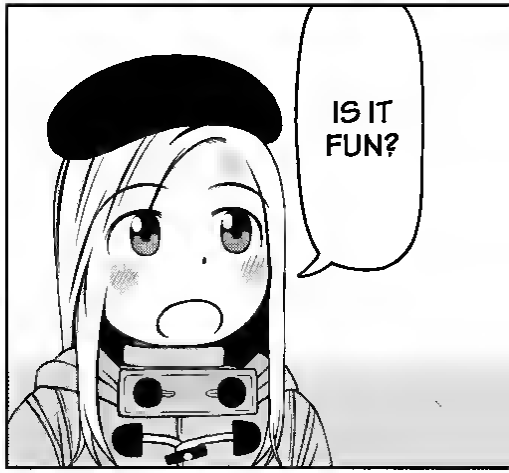
SIGN: PURIKURA CORNER THIS WAY

SIGN: HIGH QUALITY PRINTS! GET! & INFRARED MESSAGING OK!

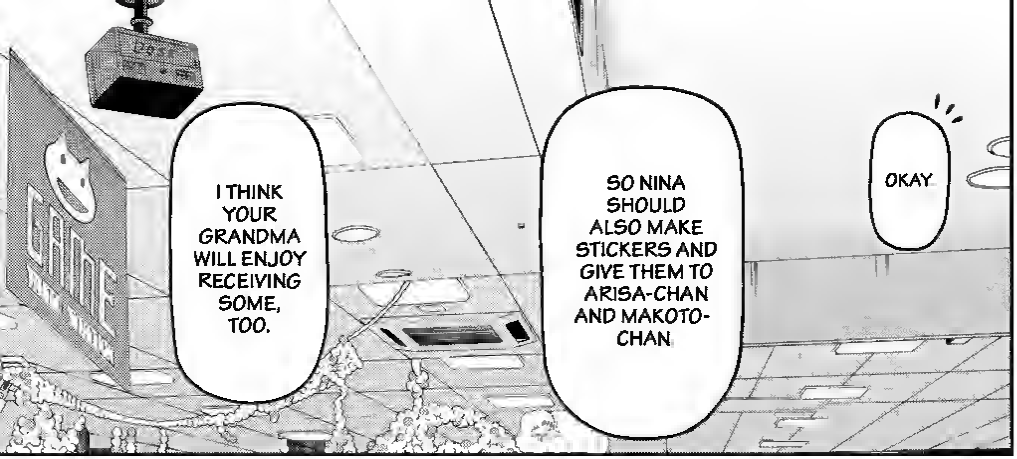


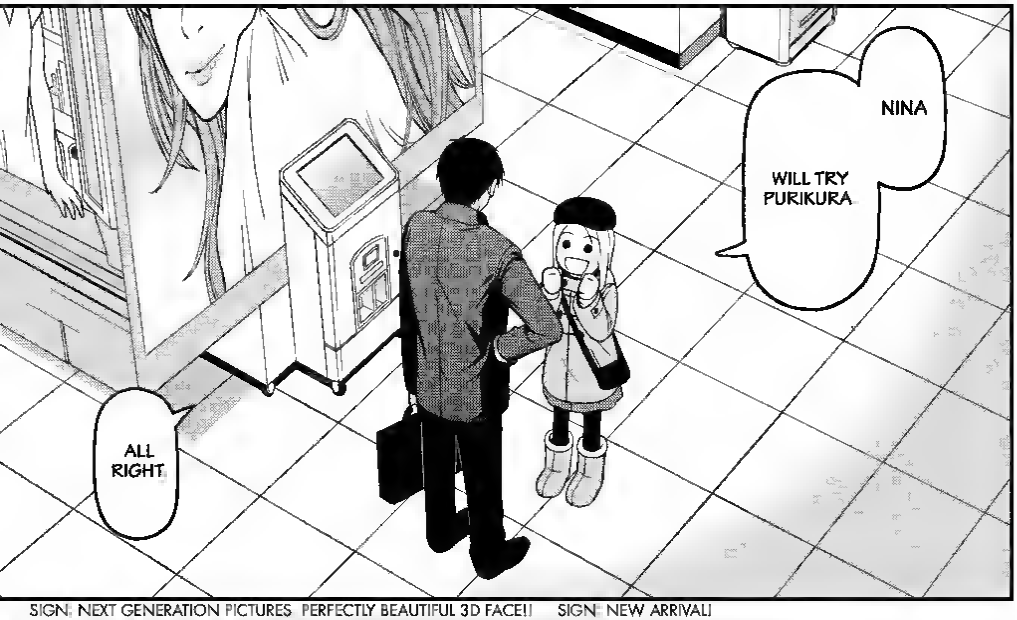
Bijo♥Print
HUH...
THIS IS A MACHINE WHERE YOU TAKE PICTURES OF YOUR FACE AND MAKE THEM INTO STICKERS.


GIRLS LIKE TO TAKE PURIKURA WITH THEIR FRIENDS AND TRADE THEM.
THEY STICK THEM ON THEIR NOTEBOOKS AND COLLECT THEM TO REMEMBER GOOD TIMES SPENT WITH THEIR FRIENDS, TOO.
HUH...
COLLECTION
HOT COLLECTION


IS IT FUN?

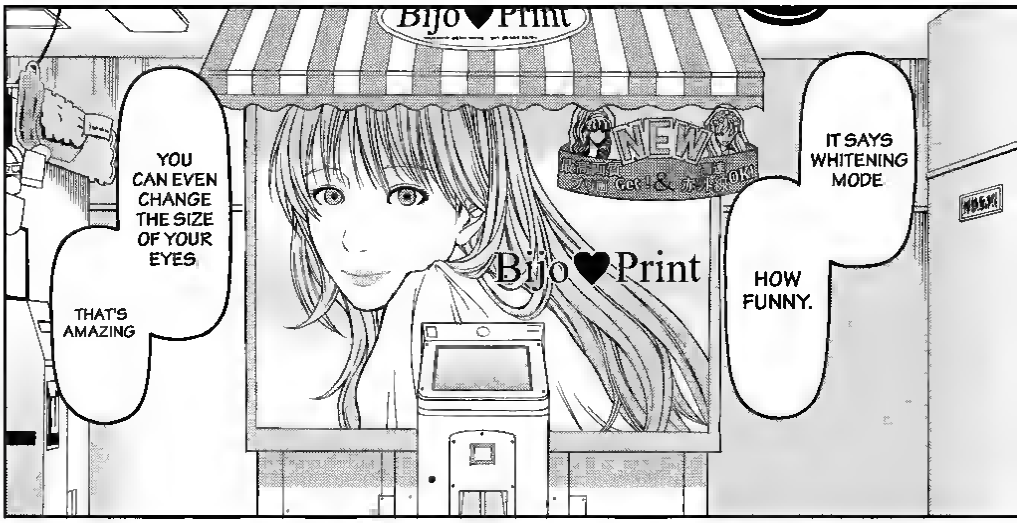
I DON'T REALLY GET IT, BUT...

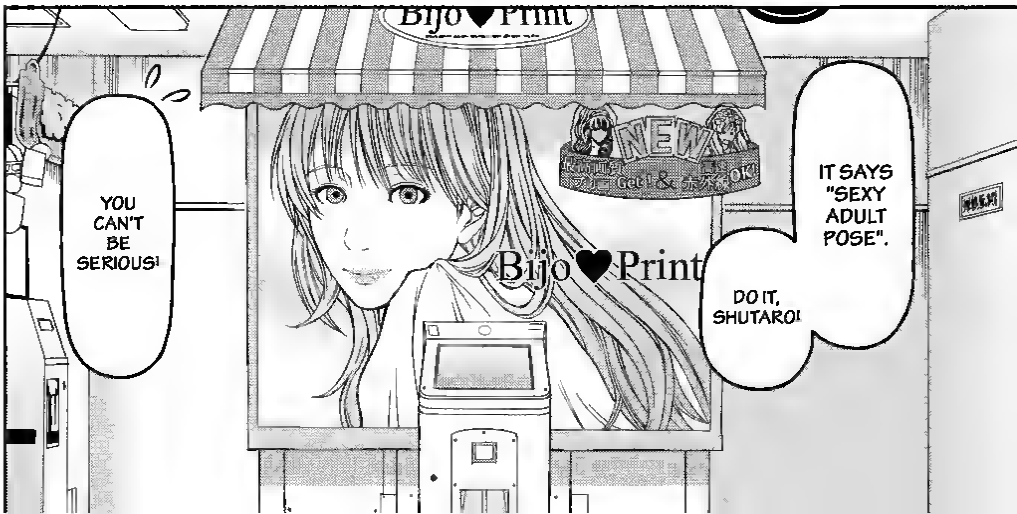

I THINK YOUR GRANDMA WILL ENJOY RECEIVING SOME, TOO.
SO NINA SHOULD ALSO MAKE STICKERS AND GIVE THEM TO ARISA-CHAN AND MAKOTO-CHAN.
OKAY.
SIGN


NINA WILL TRY PURIKURA.
ALL RIGHT.

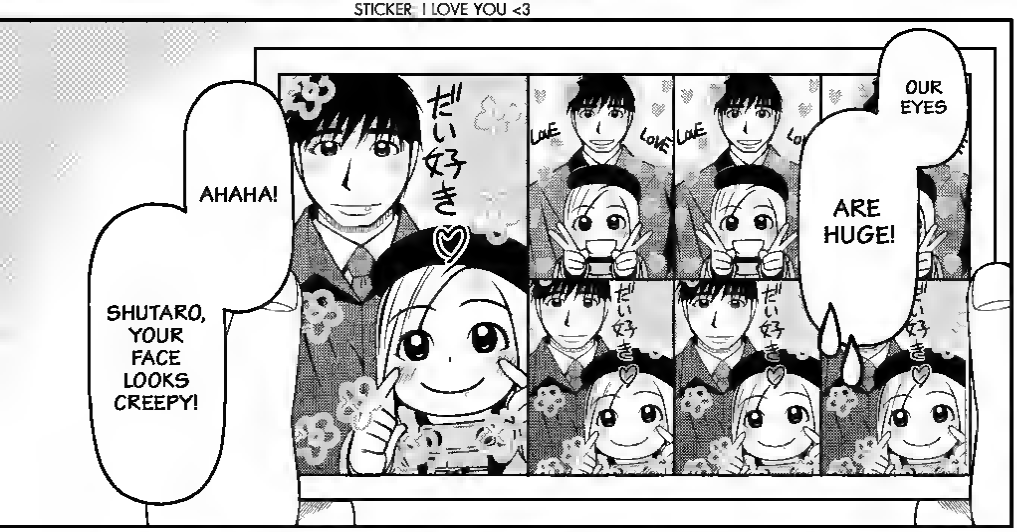
SIGN: NEXT GENERATION PICTURES PERFECTLY BEAUTIFUL 3D FACE!!
SIGN: NEW ARRIVAL!
次世代の写り。
KATO

Bijo♥Print
NEW
Bijo♥Print
IT'S SO BRIGHT IN HERE.
YEAH, IT IS.


Bijo♥Print
NEW
Bijo♥Print
IT SAYS WHITENING MODE
HOW FUNNY.
YOU CAN EVEN CHANGE THE SIZE OF YOUR EYES
THAT'S AMAZING


Bijo♥Print
NEW
Bijo♥Print
IT SAYS "SEXY ADULT POSE".
DO IT, SHUTARO!
YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS!

STICKER: I LOVE YOU <3



OH!
WE'LL TAKE ANOTHER ONE AND SEND IT TO MY CELL PHONE
THEN I'LL JUST FORWARD IT TO NEE-CHAN
HUH?
WE CAN DO THAT REALLY EASILY.
たぶん…
I THINK...
SIGN
SHUTARO, THE WORLD'S BECOME SO CONVENIENT, HUH?
YEAH...
はは
HAHA.
SHUTARO, THANK YOU.
NO PROBLEM.
YEAH
NEE-CHAN WILL PROBABLY BE REALLY HAPPY
AND THERE...

BUZZ
ブーン
BUZZ
ブーン
I'M GETTING A LITTLE HUNGRY.
SO LET'S GO GRAB SOME LUNCH
OKAY.
はやっ
THAT WAS FAST.
NEE-CHAN'S ALREADY REPLIED.
REALLY?
OH.
NEW MESSAGES
新着メール 有
SHUTARO
HURRY UP AND SHOW ME!
SURE.
受信メール
11:47
姉 SIS
ニーナへ
TO NINA
RECIEVED MAIL
ニーナの
カワイイ姿見れて
ママ
うれしい♥
MOMMY'S REALLY HAPPY TO SEE SUCH A CUTE PICTURE OF NINA <3
MENU
メニュー

"NEXT TIME, PLEASE SEND A PURIKURA OF JUST NINA."

"BECAUSE SHUTARO'S FACE IS REALLY CREEPY"

IT SAYS

NEE-CHAN,

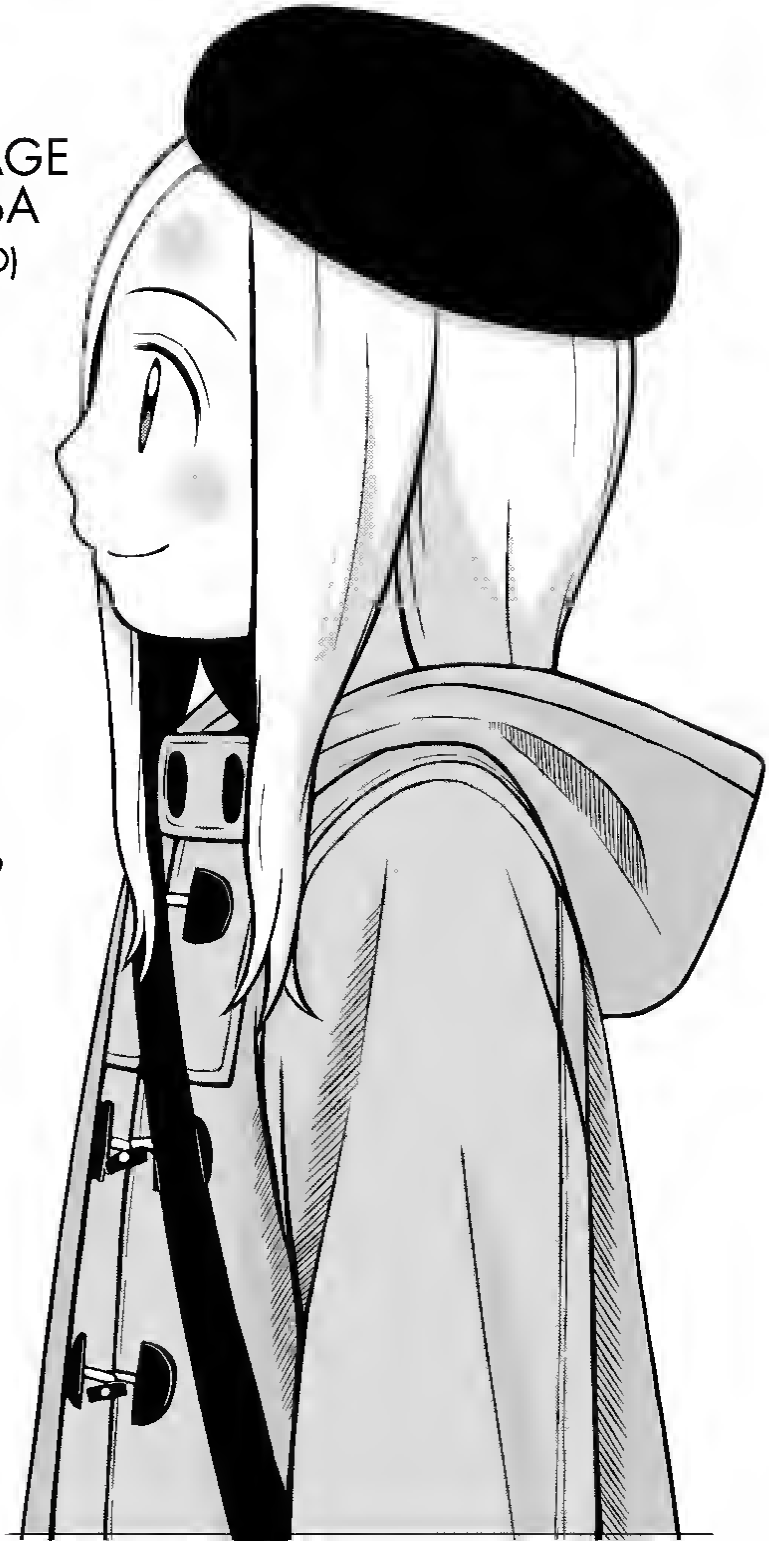
THAT'S MEAN

NEXT ISSUE WILL BE MORE ABOUT AKIBA!

CHAPTER 39

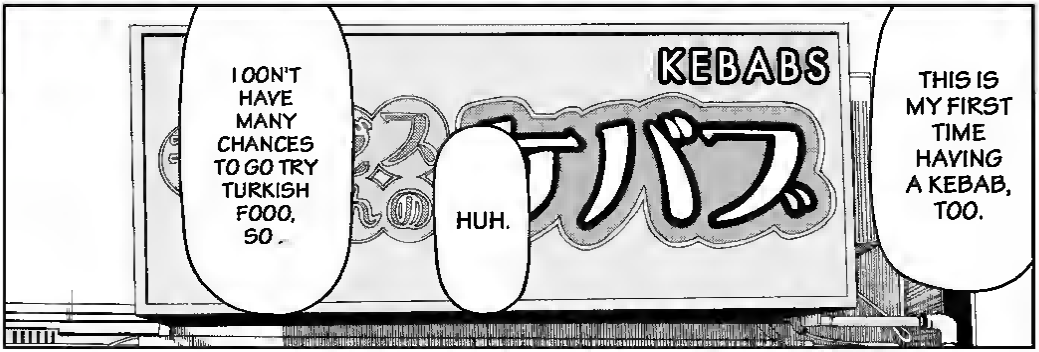
PILGRIMAGE TO AKIBA
(PART TWO)

THE CITY OF HER DREAMS FILLS HER EYES



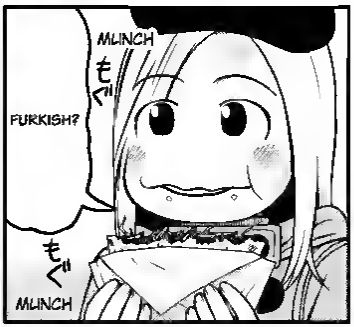
TOKYO ARC PART 2 — FIRST, WE MUST GET FOOD!
KEBABS
ケバブ
MUNCH
もぐ
MUNCH
もぐ
MUNCH
もぐ
ぱくっ
CHOMP
MMM!

IT'S PRETTY GOOD.
AREN'T THESE DELICIOUS?
SHUTARO,

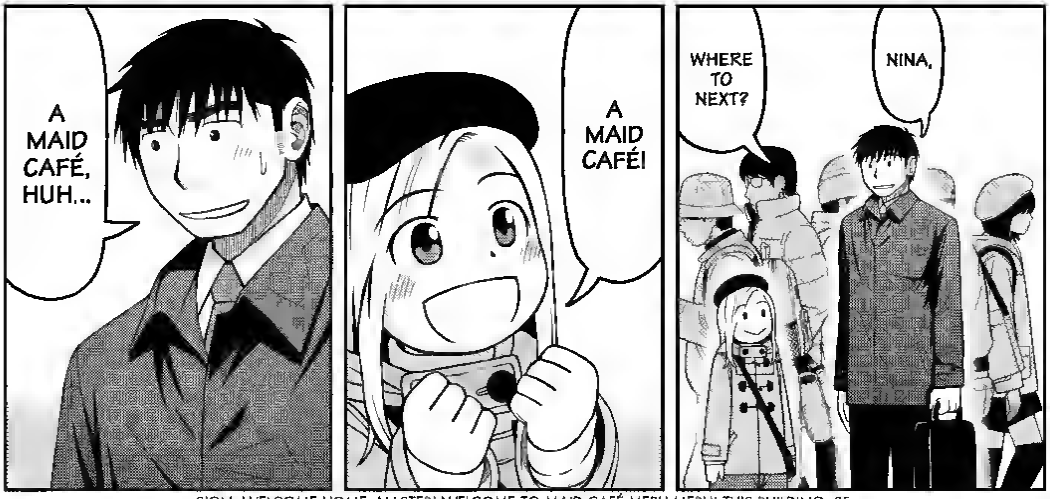

KEBABS
I DON'T HAVE MANY CHANCES TO GO TRY TURKISH FOOD, SO.
HUH.
THIS IS MY FIRST TIME HAVING A KEBAB, TOO.

THERE'S DELICIOUS FOOD FROM ALL AROUND IN THE WORLD IN JAPAN, HUH?
HAHA, YEAH.

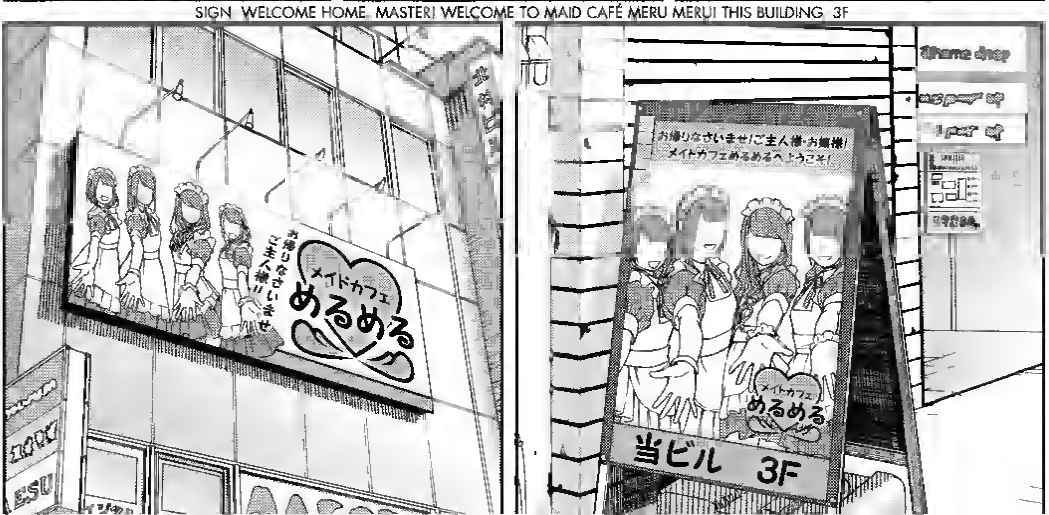
THIS DONER KEBAB WE'RE EATING IS A TURKISH DISH.
HUH...


MUNCH
もぐ
TURKISH?
もぐ
MUNCH

TURKEY IS A COUNTRY IN WESTERN ASIA.
食べながらしゃべるな
DON'T TALK WITH YOUR MOUTH FULL.



SIGN: WELCOME HOME, MASTER! WELCOME TO MAID CAFÉ MERU MERU! THIS BUILDING: 3F

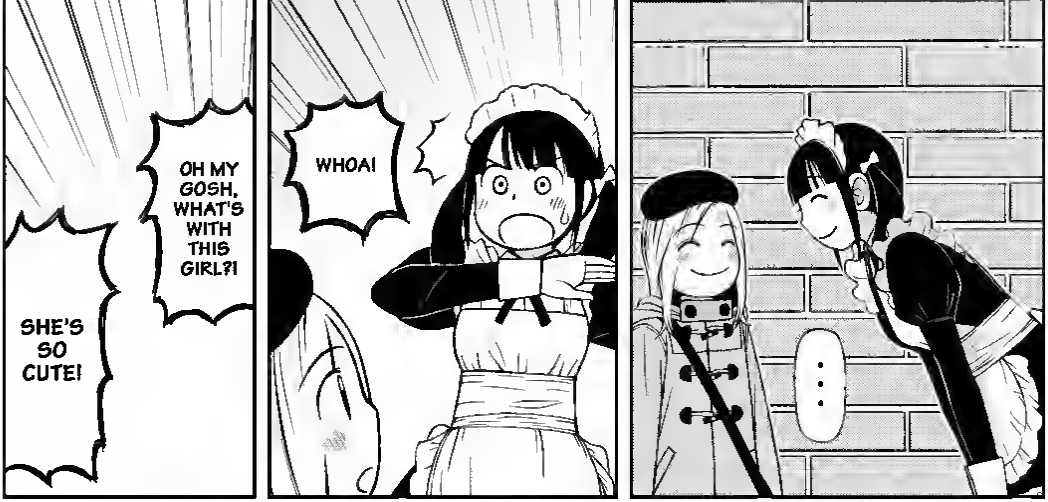


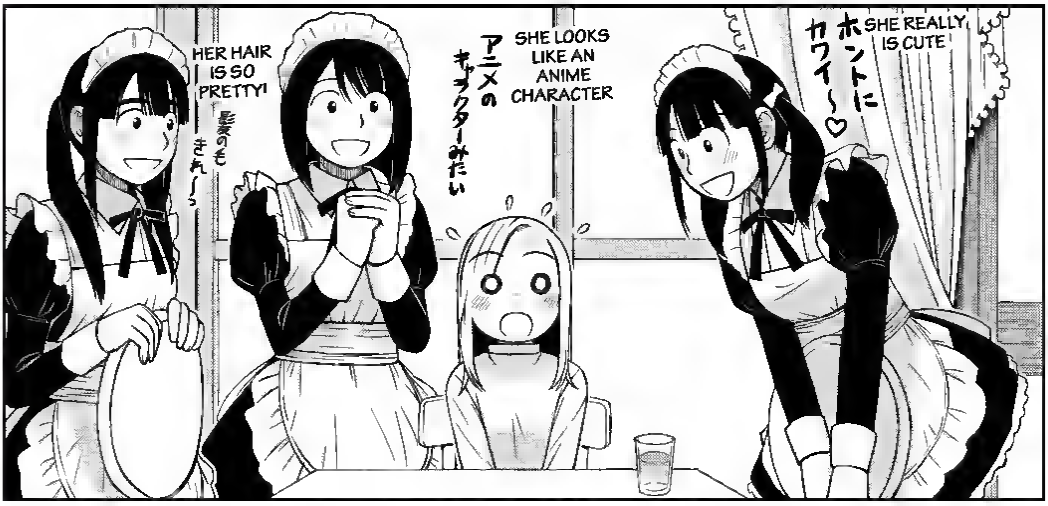
WELCOME TO MAID CAFÉ MERU MERUI
WELCOME HOME, MASTER!

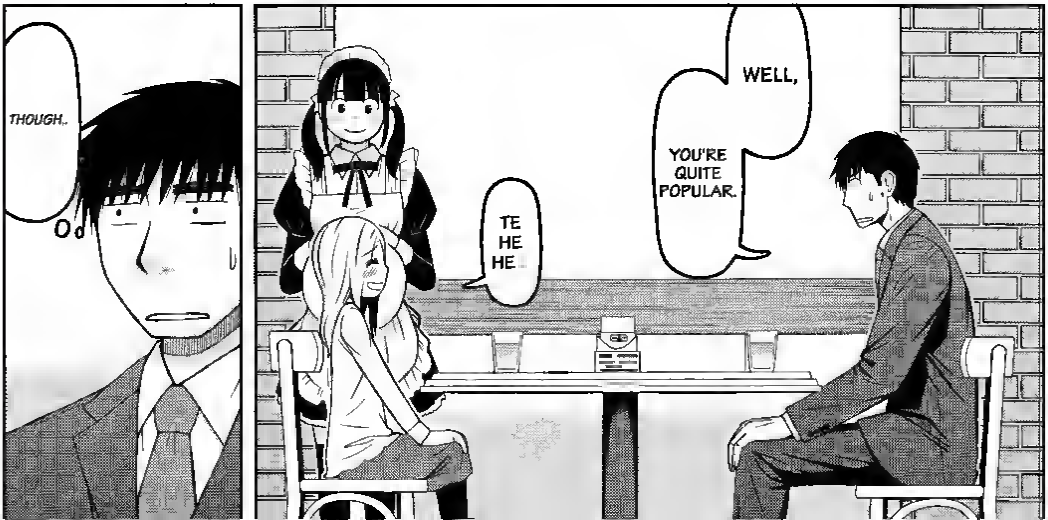
OH.

R-
RIGHT
SO CUTE!

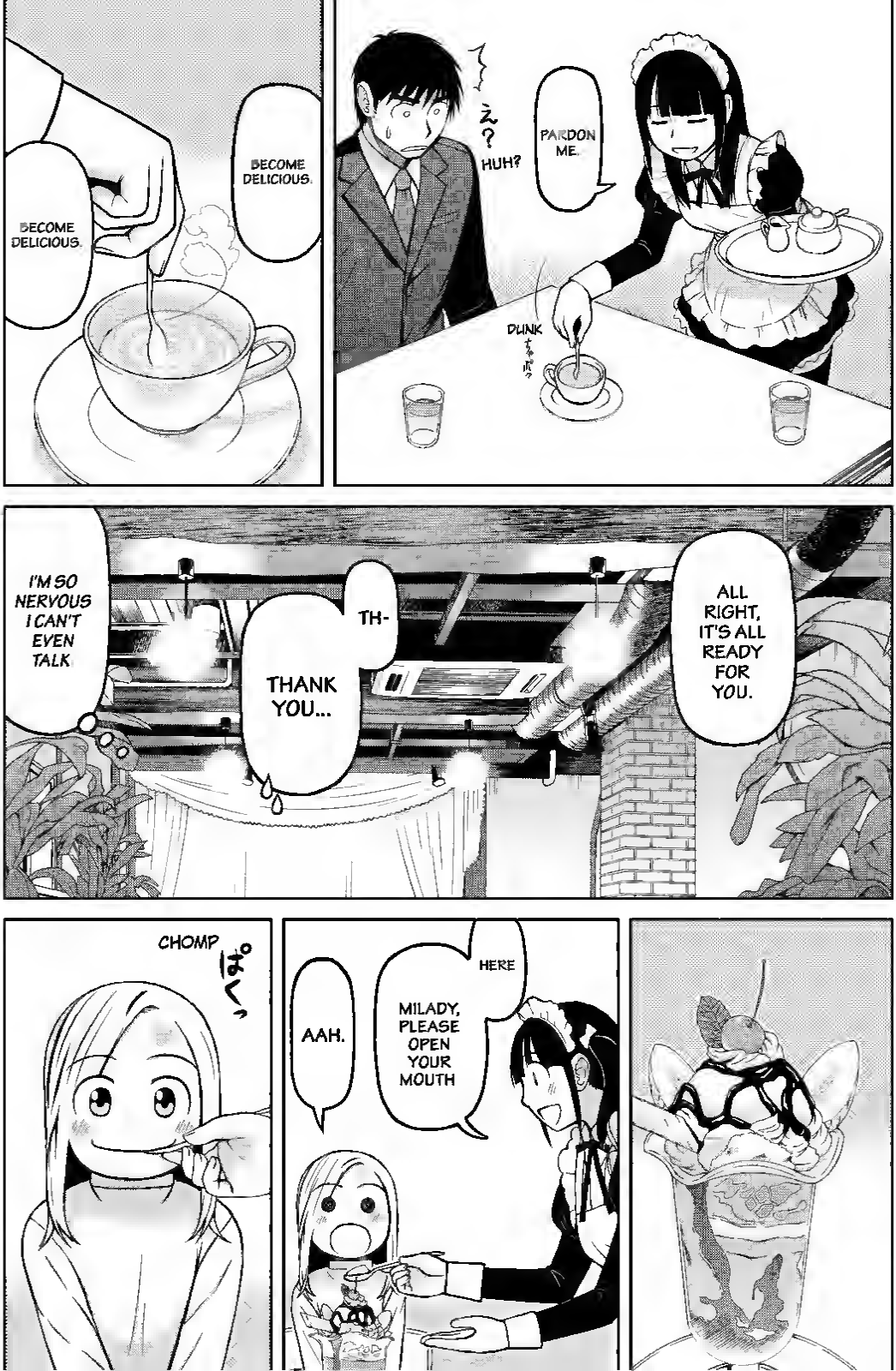
WELCOME HOME TO YOU, TOO, MILADY.
ただいま？
NINA IS HOME?

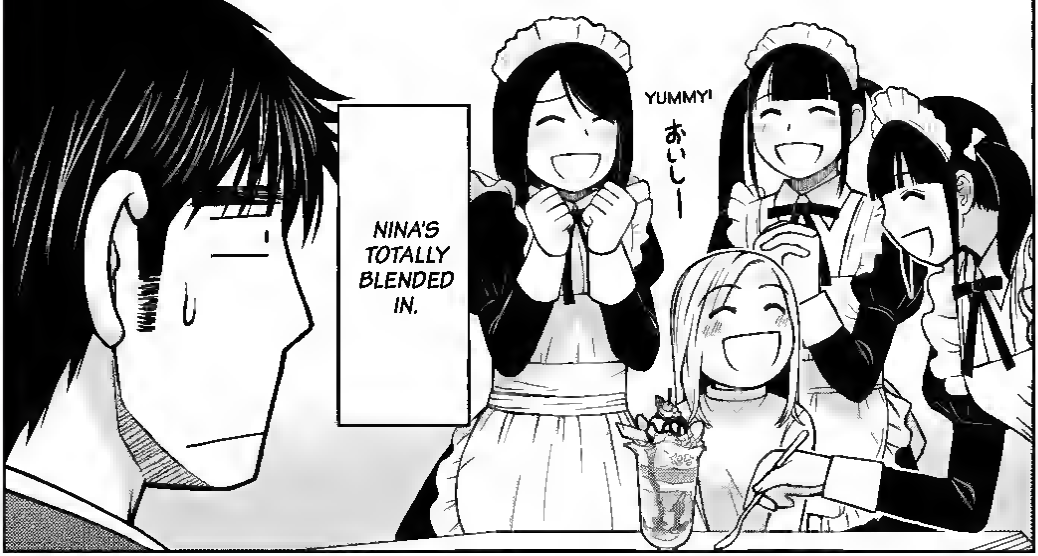

OH MY GOSH, WHAT'S WITH THIS GIRL?!
SHE'S SO CUTE!
WHOA!
...

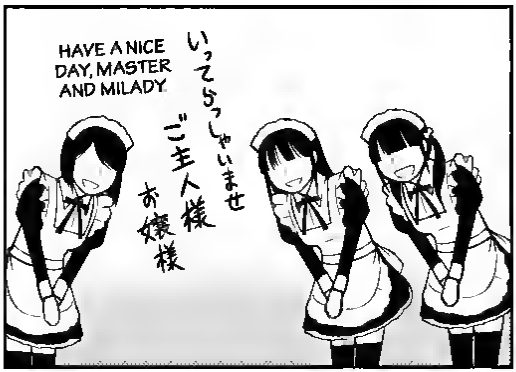

HER HAIR IS SO PRETTY!
髪までも きれ～♪
アニメのキャラクターみたい
SHE LOOKS LIKE AN ANIME CHARACTER
ホントにカワイ～♡
SHE REALLY IS CUTE


THOUGH..
TE HE HE
WELL, YOU'RE QUITE POPULAR.

THIS IS A CULTURE I DON'T UNDERSTAND AT ALL...
MOE!!
NYAN!!
NYAN!!
MOE!!
THANKS.
THIS IS MERU MERU'S SPECIAL BLEND COFFEE.
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING, MASTER.
WOULD YOU LIKE ANY SUGAR OR CREAM?
MASTER,
OH...
YES, PLEASE.
YES, SIR.


BECOME DELICIOUS.
BECOME DELICIOUS.
え？
HUH?
PARDON ME.
DUNK
ALL RIGHT, IT'S ALL READY FOR YOU.
TH-
THANK YOU...
I'M SO NERVOUS I CAN'T EVEN TALK
CHOMP
HERE
MILADY, PLEASE OPEN YOUR MOUTH
AAH.

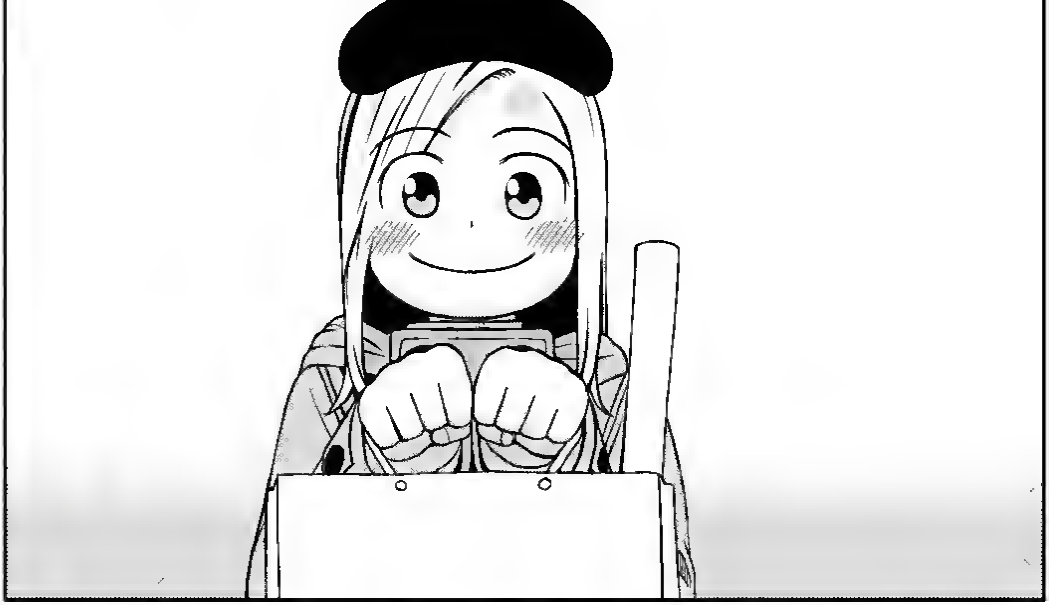


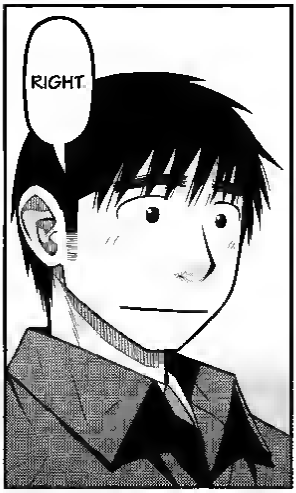


SIGN: FIRE EXTINGUISHER

STICKER: MOMOMOTO NANAE LIVE DVD LIMITED EDITION POSTER.

SO, CAN YOU BUY NINA THE DVD?
YOU HAVE NO ISSUE ASKING THAT, DO YOU?
BUT SHUTARO,
YOU SAID THE OTHER DAY YOU'D BUY ANYTHING THAT NINA WANTED.
ALL RIGHT, FINE, OKAY.
WELL.
I GUESS YOU ARE TRYING TO BE AN IDOL.
ALL RIGHT I'LL BUY IT.
YAY!
SO I GUESS IT'D BE GOOD FOR YOU TO WATCH DVDS LIKE THESE.
RIGHT?
DVD 3枚組!?
A 3-DISC DVD?!
結構高いな…
IT'S PRETTY EXPENSIVE…




RIGHT.

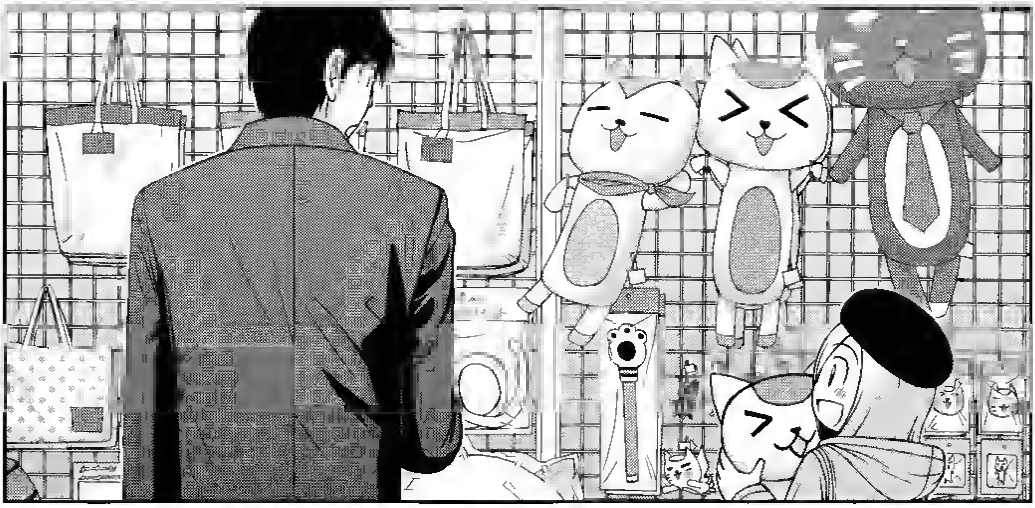
THIS WILL BE
NINA'S TREASURE.

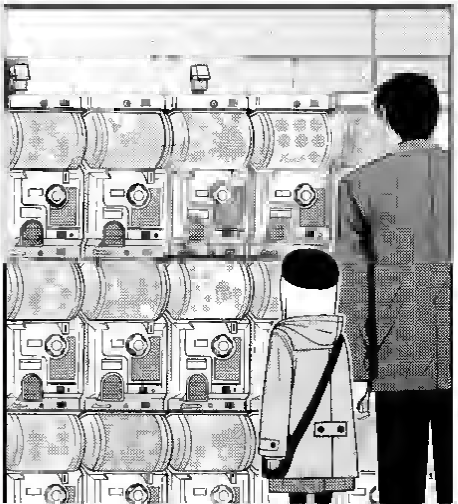
MAKE SURE YOU TAKE GOOO CARE OF IT
SHUTARO, THANK YOU!

WH—
WHAT?
ALL RIGHT! LET'S GO LOOK FOR THE NEXT TREASURE!

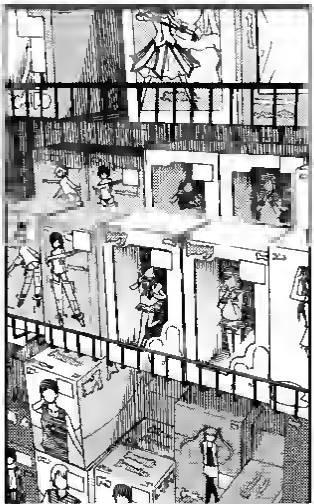
THE GREATEST

ISN'T A TREASURE SUPPOSED TO CONSIST OF ONLY ONE THING?
WELL
LET'S GO, SHUTARO!

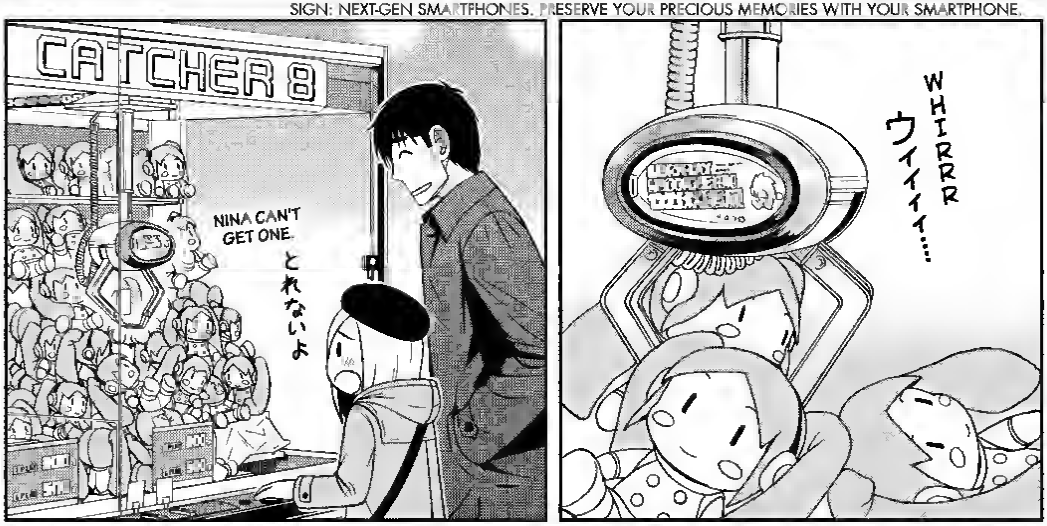




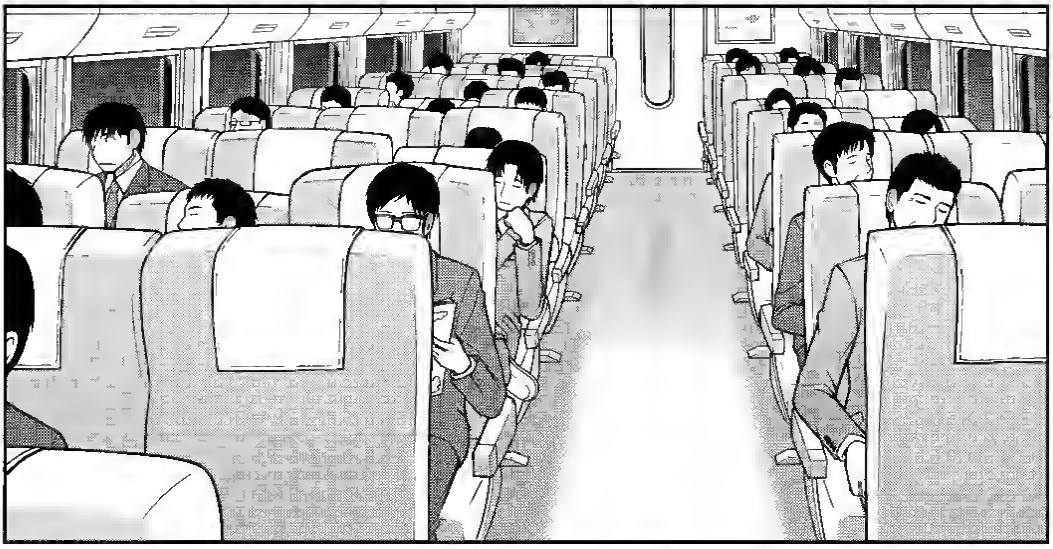
SO CUTE!
かわいい!!

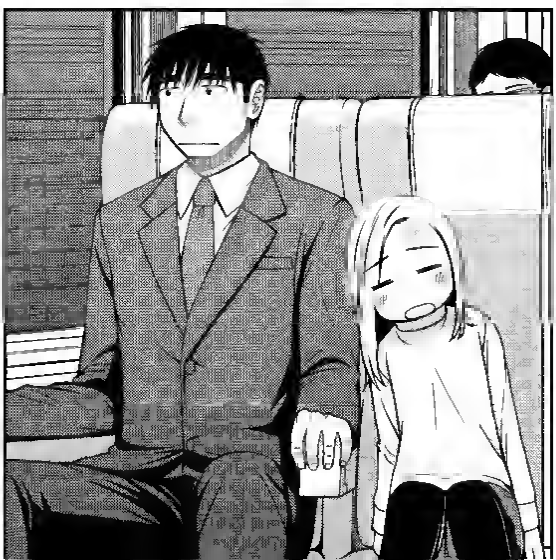


SIGN: NEXT-GEN SMARTPHONES. PRESERVE YOUR PRECIOUS MEMORIES WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE.

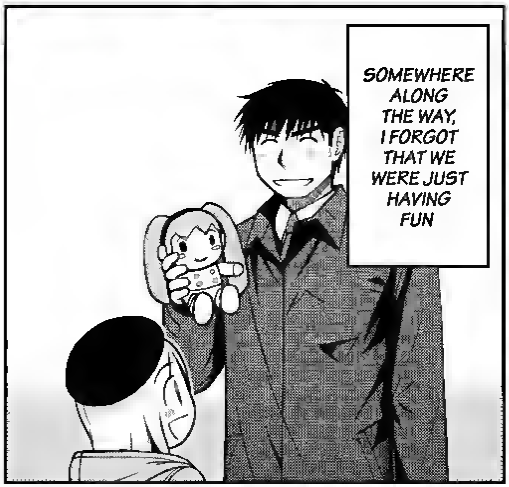


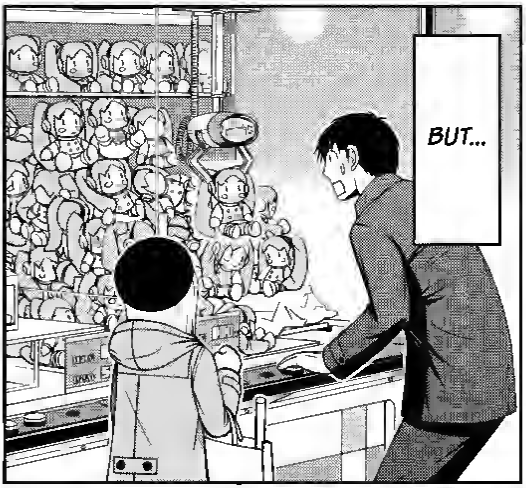
BANNER: BRAND NEW MACHINES

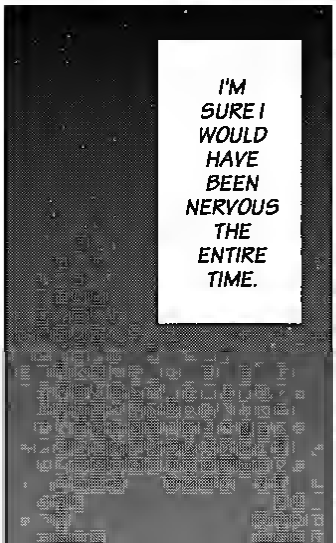




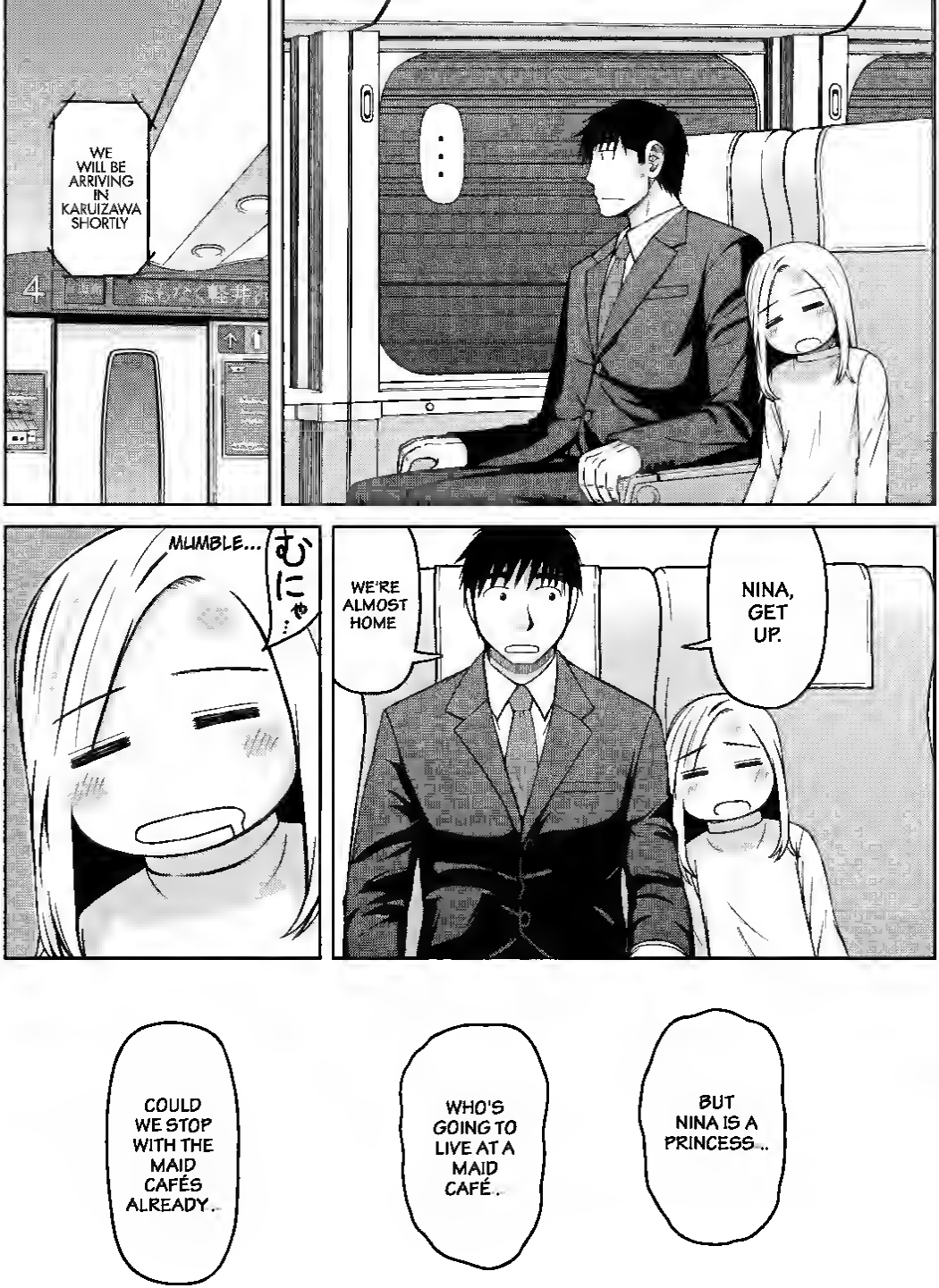
IN THE END
THIS TRIP BECAME MORE ABOUT WANOERING AROUNO WITH NINA IN AKIBA


SOMEWHERE ALONG THE WAY, I FORGOT THAT WE WERE JUST HAVING FUN


BUT...


I'M SURE I WOULD HAVE BEEN NERVOUS THE ENTIRE TIME.

IF I HAON'T BROUGHT NINA WITH ME ANO HAD GONE TO TOKYO ALONE AND CAME BACK ALONE


WE WILL BE ARRIVING IN KARUIZAWA SHORTLY
...
MUMBLE...
むにゃ...
WE'RE ALMOST HOME
NINA, GET UP.
COULD WE STOP WITH THE MAID CAFÉS ALREADY..
WHO'S GOING TO LIVE AT A MAID CAFÉ..
BUT NINA IS A PRINCESS..

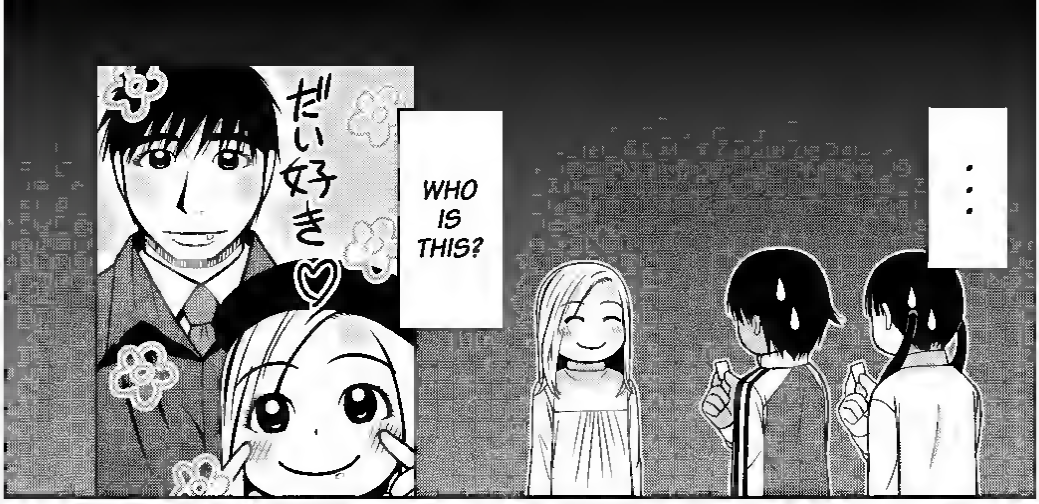
HOLDING ON TO THE HAPPINESS OF HAVING NINA WITH HIM...

CHAPTER 40

PURIKURA AND FRIENDS

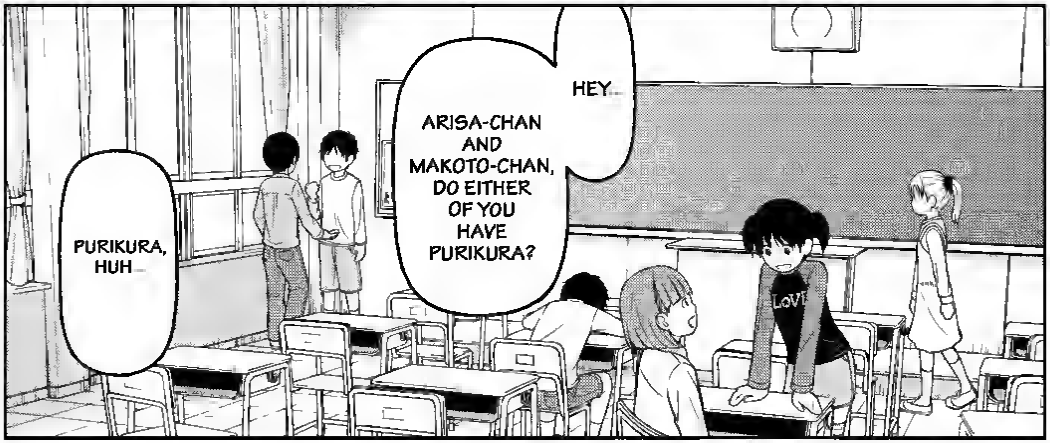
THERE ARE LOTS OF FUN THINGS TO DO AT HOME, TOO!

HERE YOU GO.
SHARING THE MEMORIES FROM TOKYO WITH FRIENDS!
NINA IS GIVING THEM TO YOU
HUH
SO THESE ARE THE PURIKURA YOU TOOK IN AKIBA
YEP.
THANKS, NINA
SHIMAZAKI-SAN, YOU LOOK SO CUTE
TE HE HE
...



PURIKURA: I LOVE YOU

THEN,
I THINK I'LL TAKE ONE OF THOSE INSTEAD.
M-ME TOO.
OH...
I HAVE ONE WITH JUST ME, TOO.
ほら
SEE?


HEY...
ARISA-CHAN AND MAKOTO-CHAN, DO EITHER OF YOU HAVE PURIKURA?
PURIKURA, HUH...

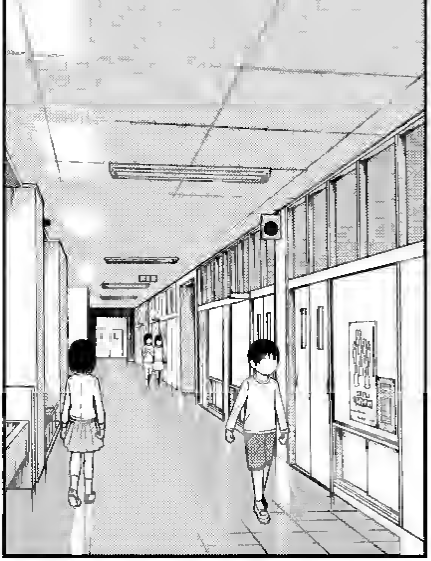
A PURIKURA WITH THE WHOLE FAMILY IS SO COOL
YOU SHOULD GIVE ONE TO NINA
ALL RIGHT I'LL BRING IT TOMORROW
I HAVE ONE THAT I TOOK WITH MY MOM AND DAD A BIT AGO...
I SEE

UM,
I'VE NEVER TAKEN ANY PURIKURA
WHAT ABOUT YOU, MAKOTO-CHAN?
AND EVEN IF I HAD TAKEN ANY,
I WOULDN'T HAVE ANYONE TO EXCHANGE THEM WITH..
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SO RUDE ABOUT IT!
BUT IT'S THE TRUTH, ISN'T IT?
HEY!
THAT'S BECAUSE YOU DON'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS, KOHINATA

HUH?
IT'S OKAY.
...
YOU AND NINA...
ARE FRIENDS NOW.
THANK YOU,
SHIMAZAKI-SAN
AND TAKING THEM TOGETHER, TOO
SO,
LET'S START TRADING PURIKURA,

I KNOW!
RIGHT RIGHT
OF COURSE, ARISA-CHAN IS OUR FRIEND, TOO
WHAT'S THAT?
PURICHŌ?
WHY DON'T WE ALL...
GO BUY PURICHŌ AFTER SCHOOL?
IT'S AN ALBUM THAT YOU STICK PURIKURA IN.
WHAT DO THEY LOOK LIKE?
I ACTUALLY DON'T KNOW TOO MUCH ABOUT THEM
LET'S GO ASK SOMEONE LATER.

Charming Bear
IT'S SO CUTE!
THIS IS MY PURICHŌ.



ARE YOU ALL GOING TO BUY ONE?
WHY?
YUP.

HEY! YOU BROUGHT SOMETHING TO SCHOOL THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH STUDYING YET AGAIN!
布。
またすんな
勉強と関係のないもの
持ってきて!?
THIS IS WHAT A TYPICAL PURICHŌ LOOKS LIKE.
THE COVER IS PLASTIC, AND THERE'S USUALLY A BUTTON TO CLOSE IT.
WOW...

WELL, YOU SHOULD GO TO A STATIONERY STORE, THEN
THEY'LL HAVE ALL KINDS OF PURICHŌ AND CUTE STUFF.
HUH?

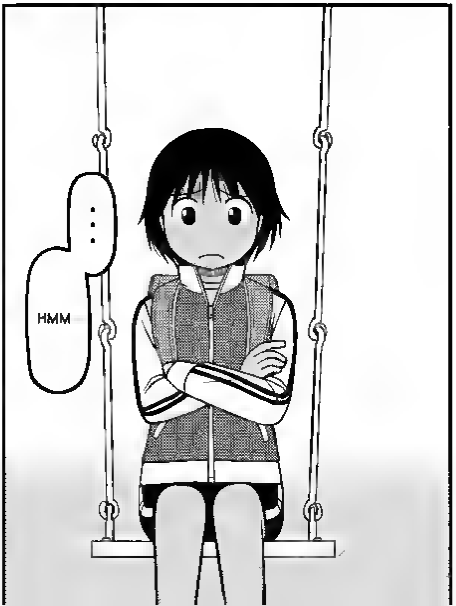
SIGN: MEETING SPOT

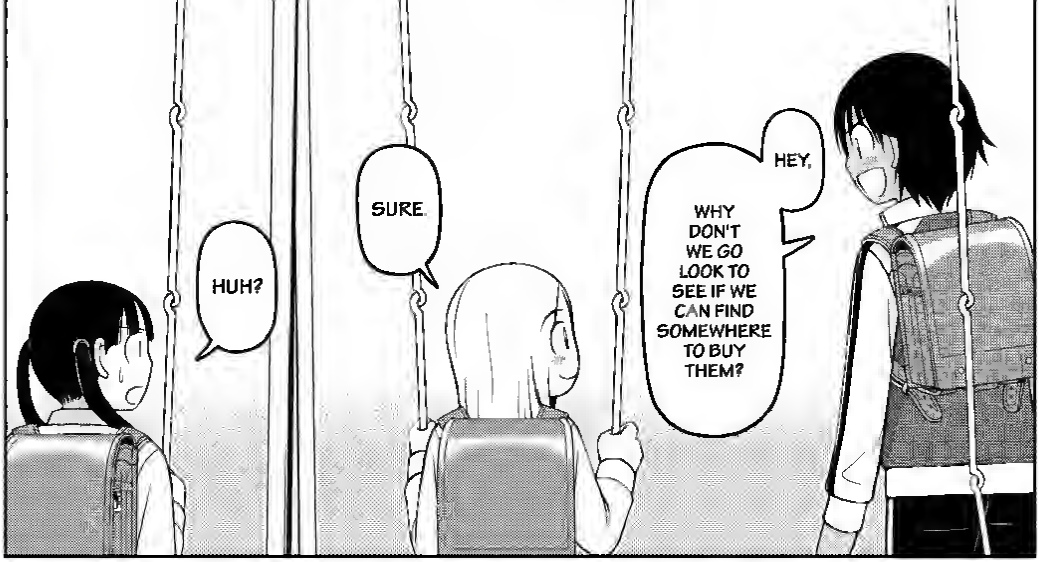
I GUESS KITA-KARUIZAWA ISN'T REALLY A CITY...
YEAH...

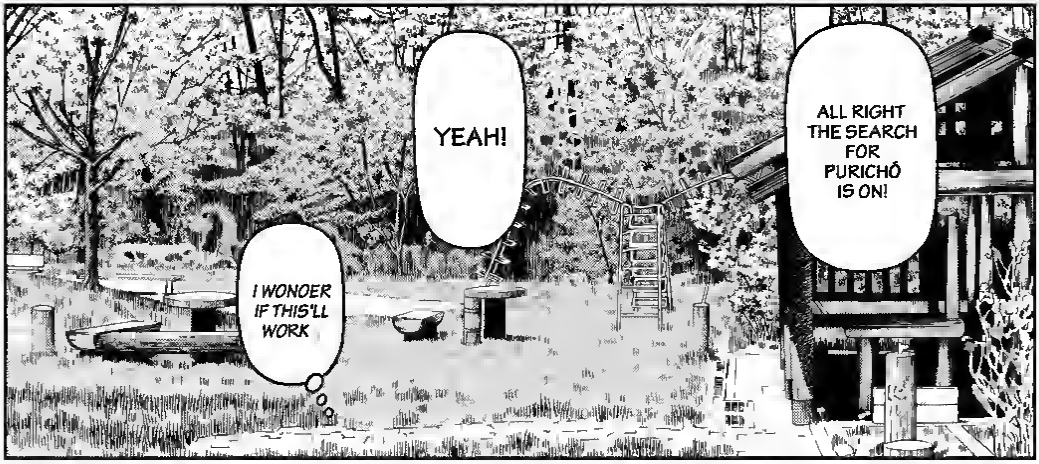
IF THEY DON'T HAVE THEM IN TOWN, WE DON'T REALLY HAVE A CHOICE.

WHAT SHOULD WE DO
ABOUT THE PURICHÔ?

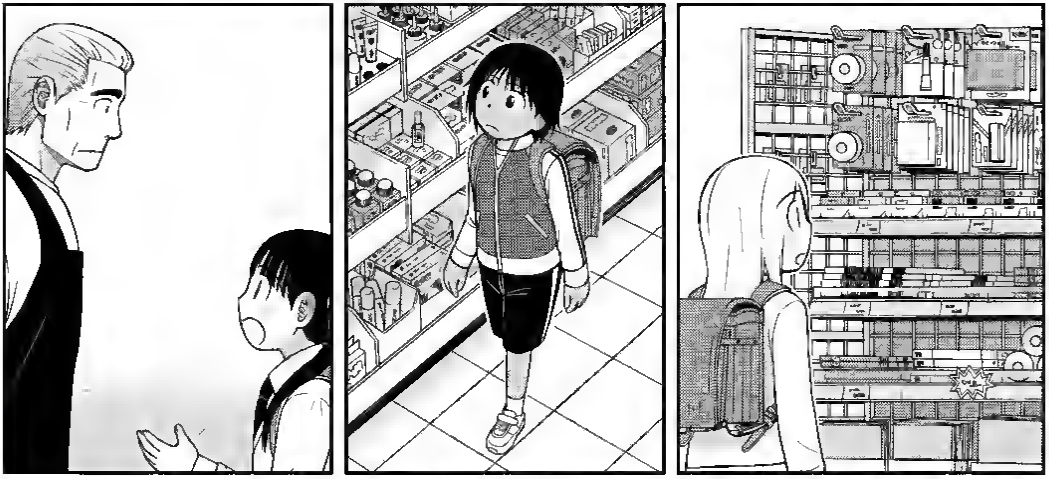
I THINK IF WE ACTUALLY LOOKED AROUND HERE,
WE'D PROBABLY BE ABLE TO FIND A PLACE THAT SELLS THEM.

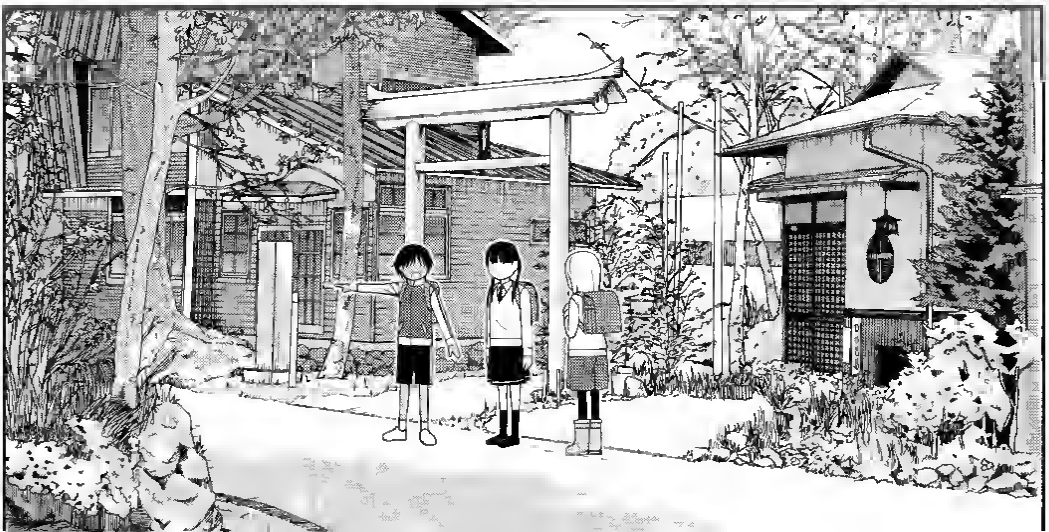

HMM
...

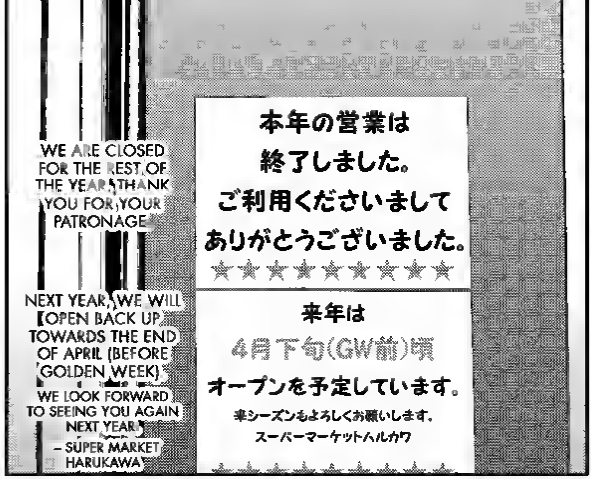

HEY,
WHY DON'T WE GO LOOK TO SEE IF WE CAN FIND SOMEWHERE TO BUY THEM?
SURE.
HUH?

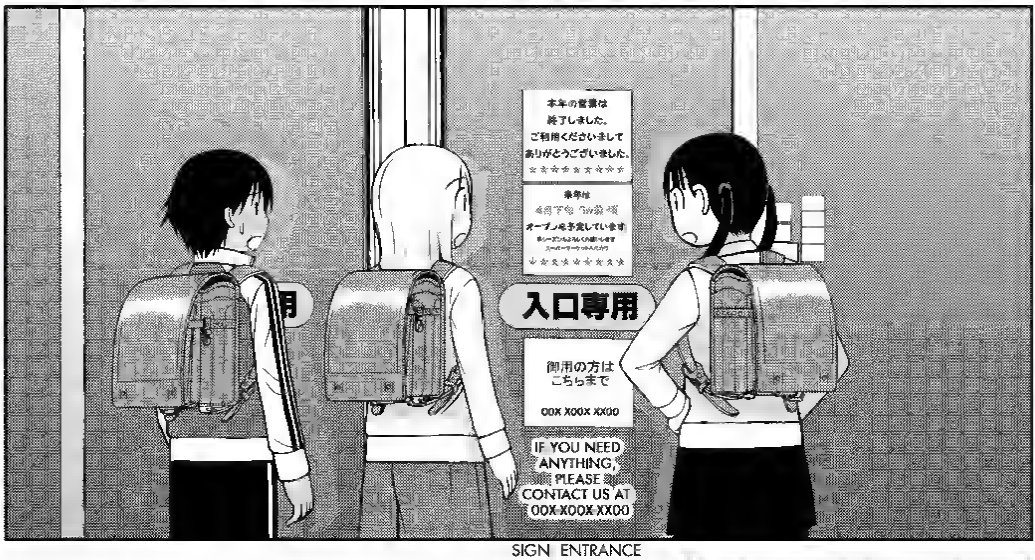

ALL RIGHT THE SEARCH FOR PURICHÔ IS ON!
YEAH!
I WONDER IF THIS'LL WORK

SIGN: HOSOYAMA VARIETY STORE

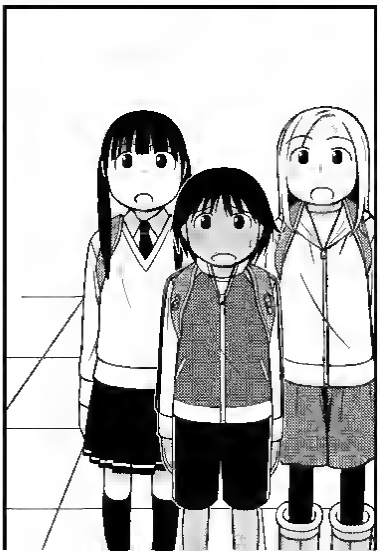


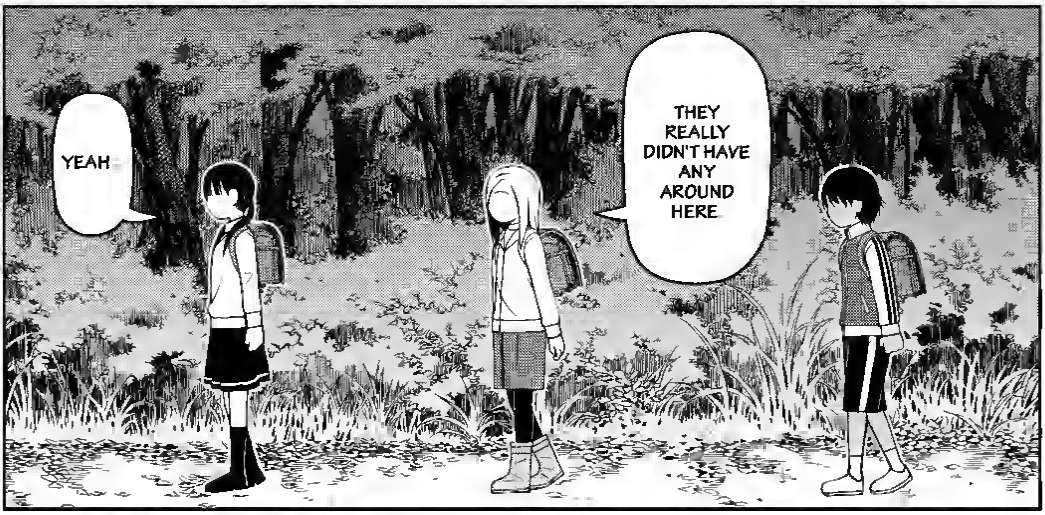



WE ARE CLOSED FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR. THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATRONAGE.
本年の営業は
終了しました。
ご利用くださいまして
ありがとうございました。
NEXT YEAR, WE WILL REOPEN BACK UP TOWARDS THE END OF APRIL (BEFORE GOLDEN WEEK). WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AGAIN NEXT YEAR.
– SUPER MARKET HARUKAWA
来年は
4月下旬(GW前)頃
オープンを予定しています。
来シーズンもよろしくお願いします。
スーパーマーケットハルカワ



SIGN ENTRANCE



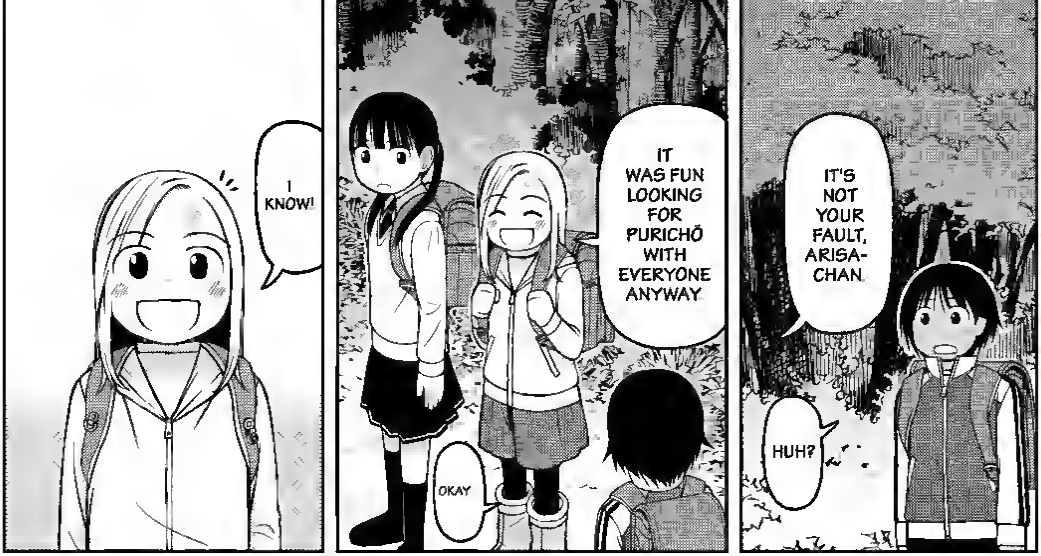

YEAH.
THEY REALLY DIDN'T HAVE ANY AROUND HERE.

I ENDED UP CAUSING EVERYONE TROUBLE
BECAUSE I SAID WE SHOULD GO LOOK FOR THEM...

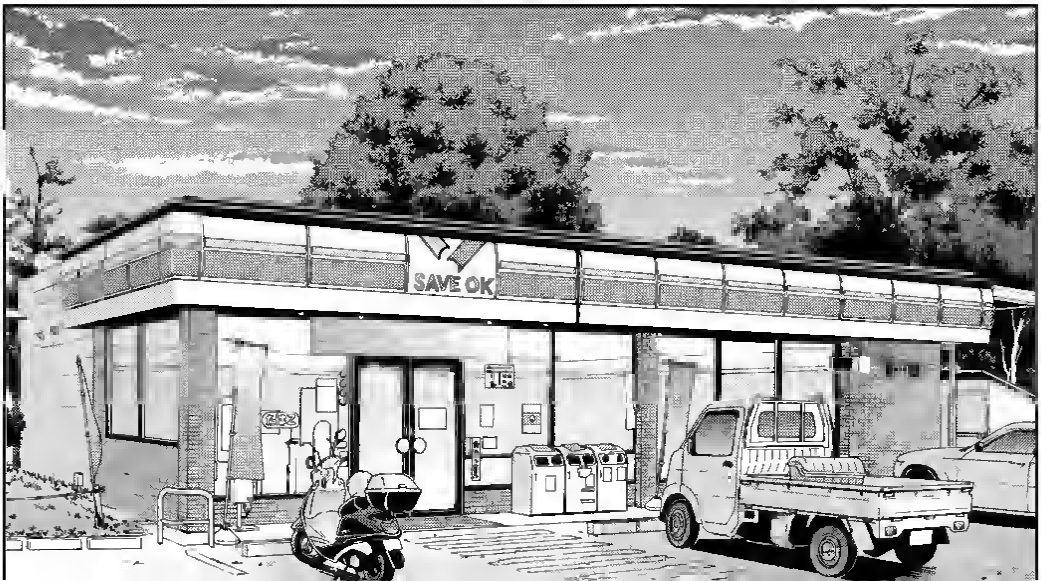
...
I'M SORRY.

WE DON'T HAVE TO BUY THEM TODAY.

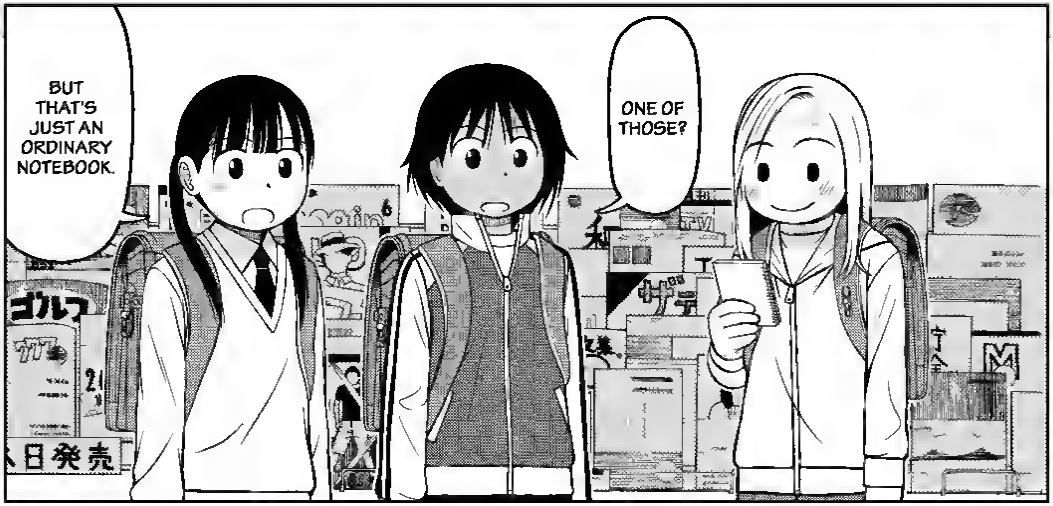
WE CAN JUST BUY THEM WHEN WE GO SOMEWHERE ELSE.

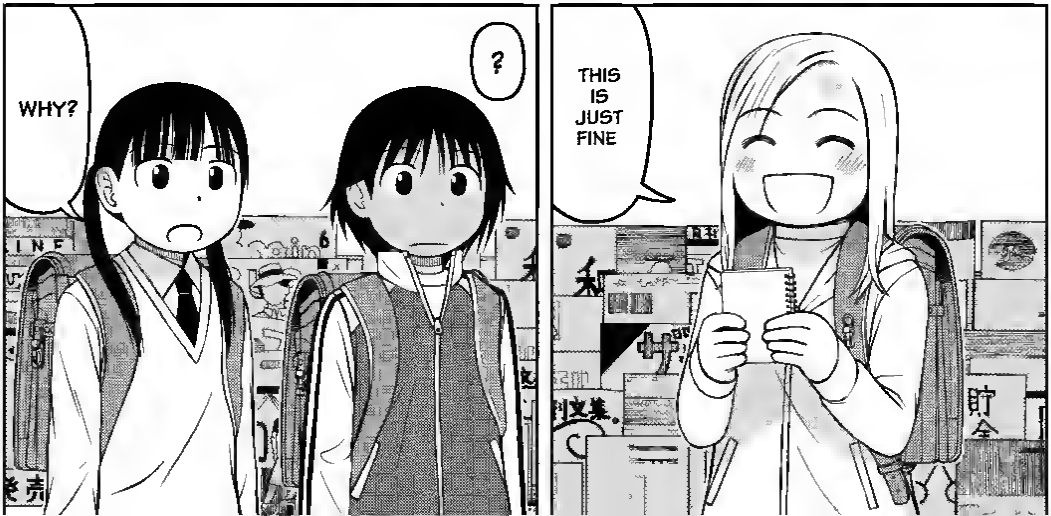

I KNOW!
IT WAS FUN LOOKING FOR PURICHŌ WITH EVERYONE ANYWAY.
OKAY
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT, ARISA-CHAN.
HUH?

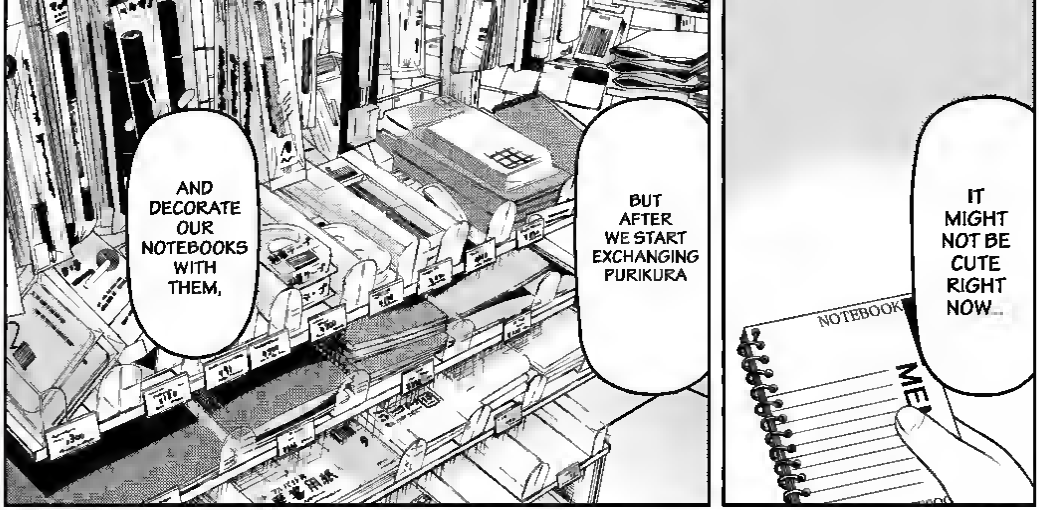
NINA HAS A GOOD IDEA.
...
?


SAVE OK

NOTEBOOK
MEN
NOTEBOOK
MADE IN JAPAN
LET'S ALL BUY THIS NOTEBOOK.
HUH?

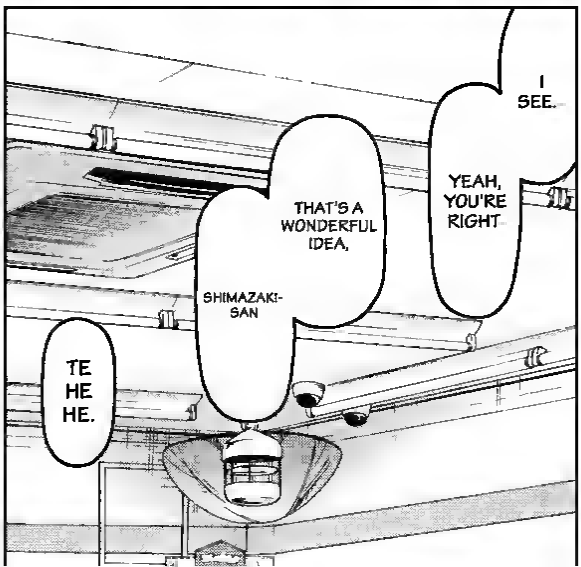

BUT THAT'S JUST AN ORDINARY NOTEBOOK.
ONE OF THOSE?


WHY?
?
THIS IS JUST FINE


AND DECORATE OUR NOTEBOOKS WITH THEM,
BUT AFTER WE START EXCHANGING PURIKURA
IT MIGHT NOT BE CUTE RIGHT NOW...
NOTEBOOK
ME

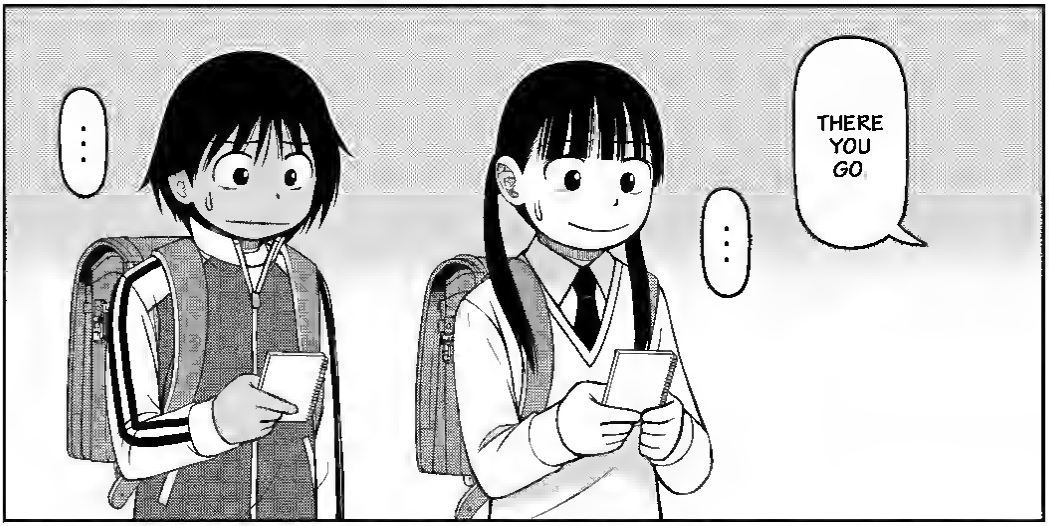
WE'LL HAVE MADE OUR OWN CUTE PURICHŌ.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.


I SEE.
YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT.
THAT'S A WONDERFUL IDEA, SHIMAZAKI-SAN
TE HE HE.

PURIKURA I LOVE YOU

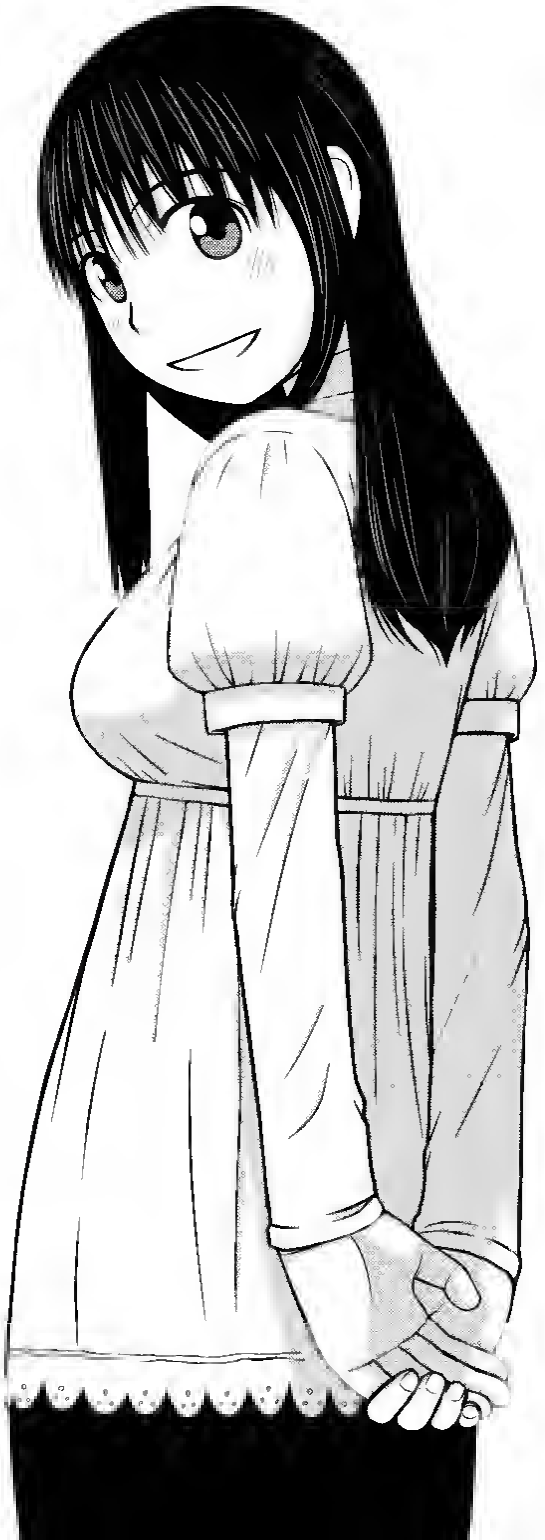
SIGN DELICIOUS SANDWICHES



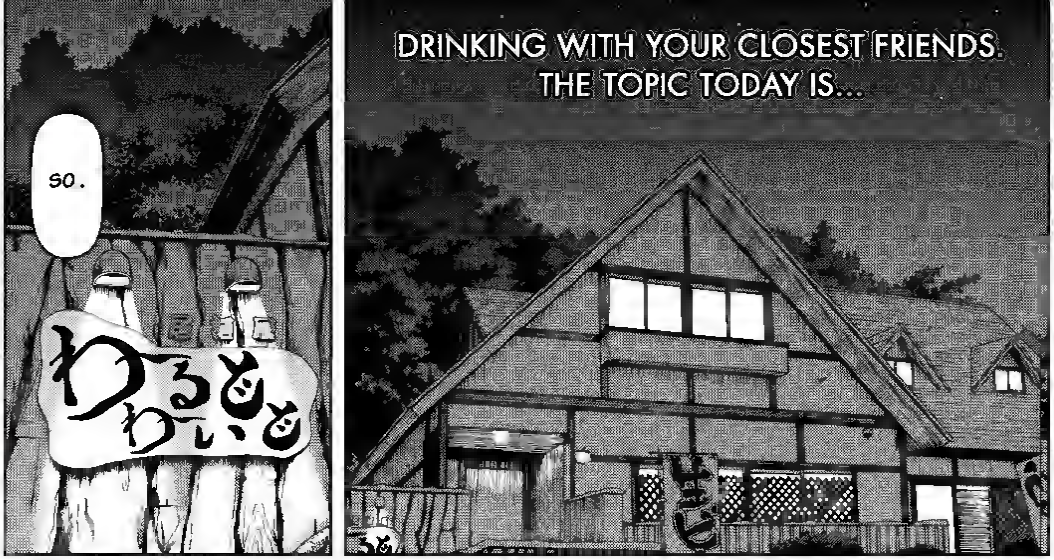
SHUTARO ISN'T POPULAR AT ALL!

CHAPTER 41

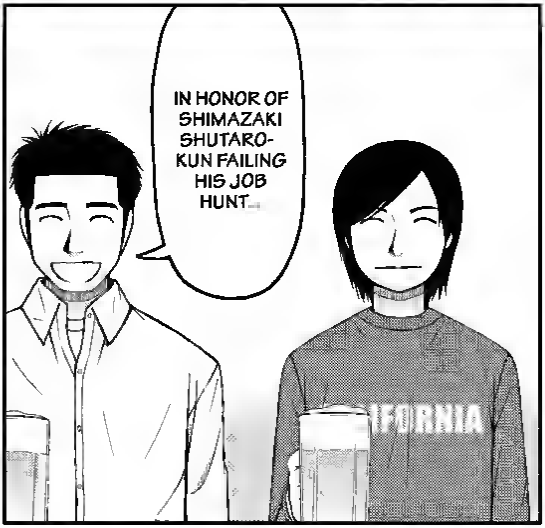
SOMEONE WHO'LL SCOLD YOU

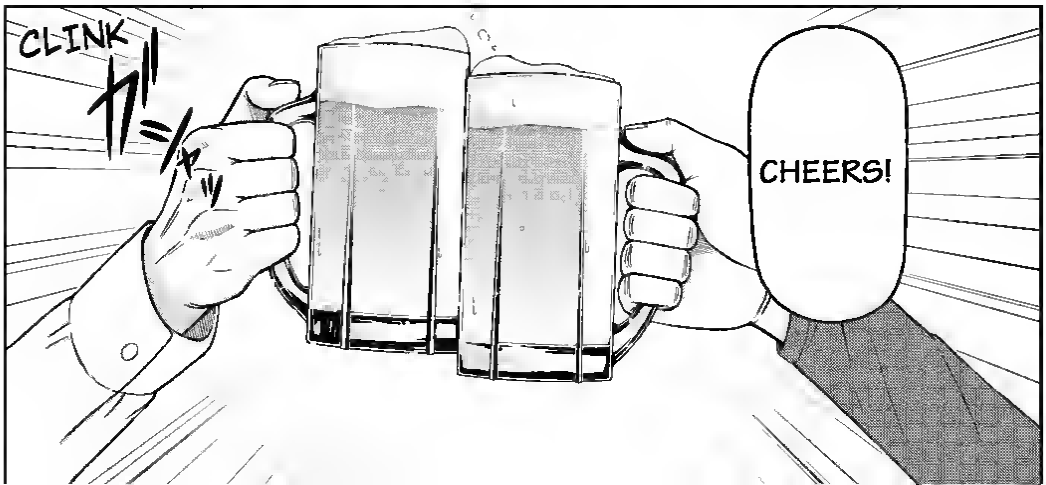


WHEN YOU GET TOO CLOSE, YOU LET YOUR GUARD DOWN. YOU CAN'T ALWAYS RELY ON OTHERS.



SIGN: IZAKAYA WAARUDO WAAIDO

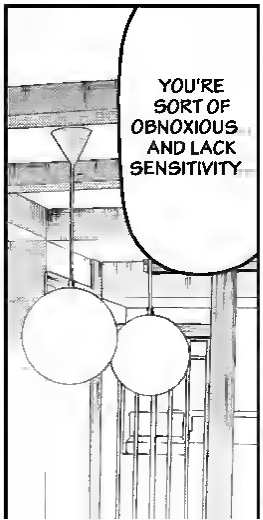




HOLD ON! DON'T YOU THINK THAT'S A BIT RUDE?
SHU'S REALLY HURTING RIGHT NOW.

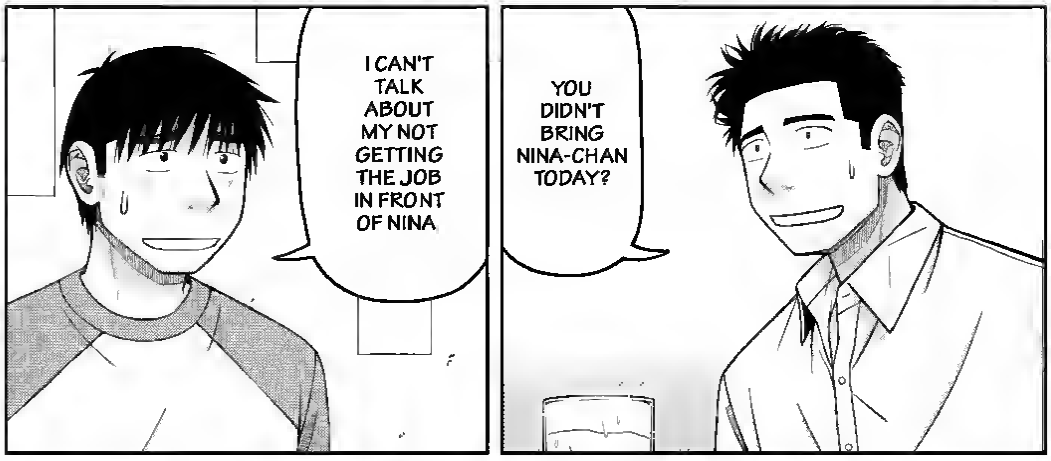
WHAT?

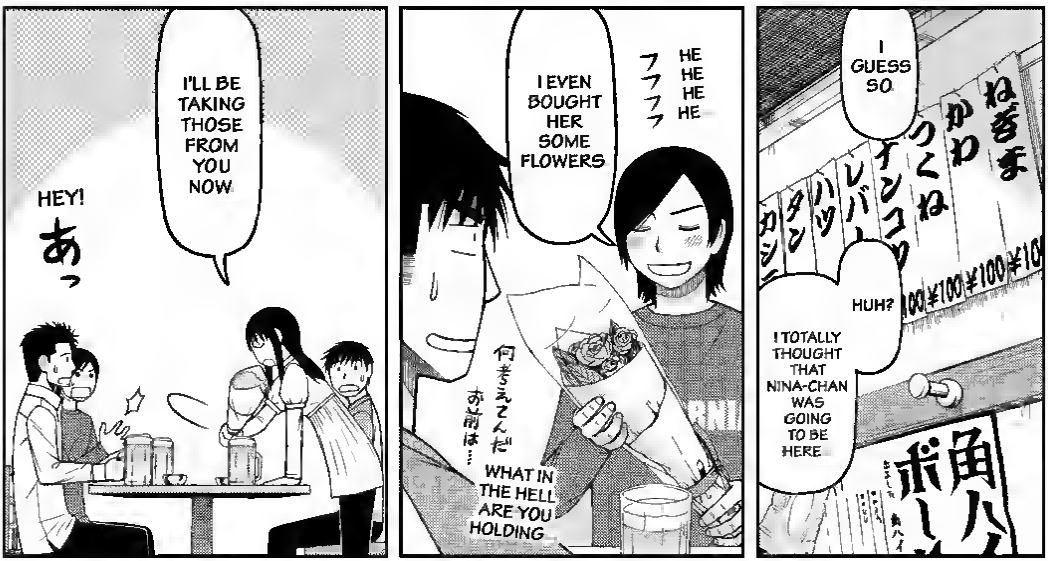
WELL, WON'T JOKING ABOUT IT LIGHTEN THE MOOD?
WE WERE THINKING ABOUT HIS FEELINGS

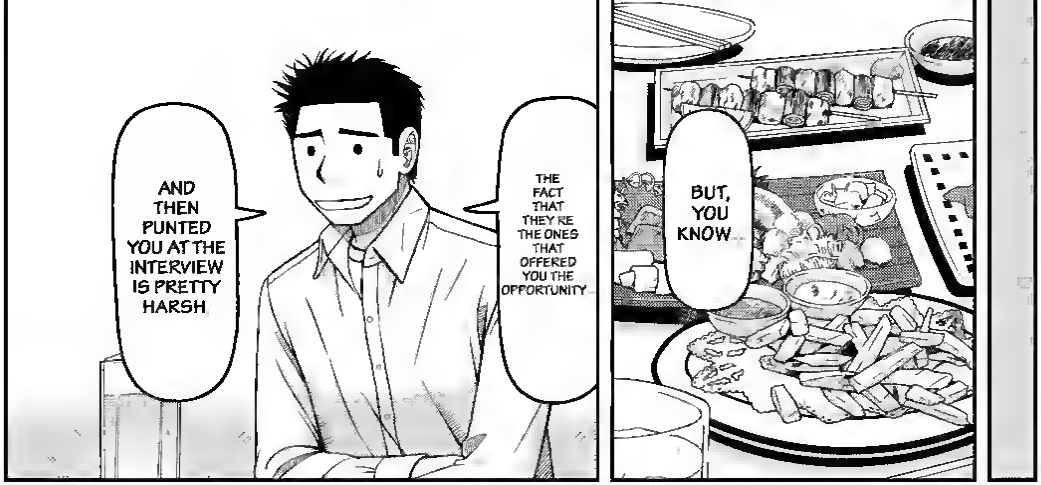

YOU'RE SORT OF OBNOXIOUS AND LACK SENSITIVITY

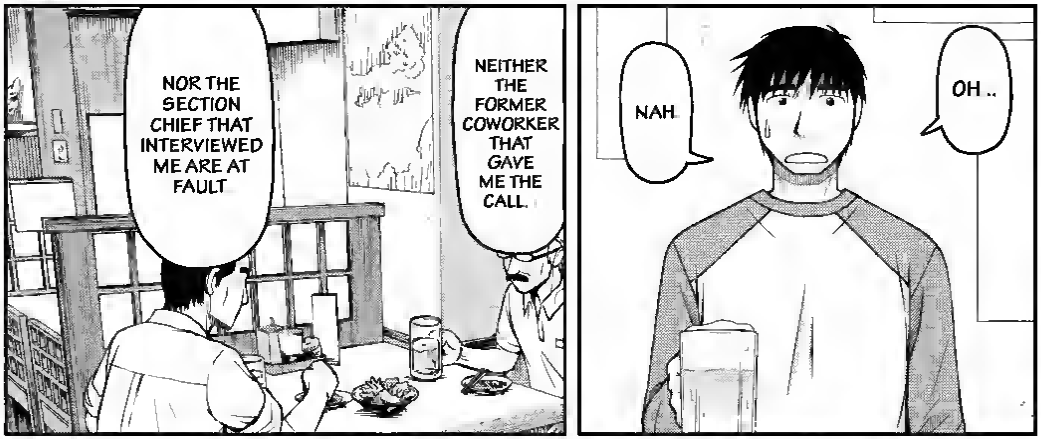
HUH?
YOU GUYS REALLY HAVEN'T CHANGED SINCE WE WERE IN SCHOOL

B-
BY THE WAY, SHUTARO
HM?
UH...
THAT'S MEAN!
THAT'S EXACTLY WHY YOU TWO HAVEN'T HAD GIRLFRIENDS YET.


I CAN'T TALK ABOUT MY NOT GETTING THE JOB IN FRONT OF NINA
YOU DIDN'T BRING NINA-CHAN TODAY?


I'LL BE TAKING THOSE FROM YOU NOW
HEY!
あっ
HE HE HE HE フフフ
I EVEN BOUGHT HER SOME FLOWERS
何考えてんだお前は…
WHAT IN THE HELL ARE YOU HOLDING
I GUESS SO
ねぎま
かわ
つくね
レバー
ハツ
タン
カシラ
¥100
¥100
¥100
HUH?
I TOTALLY THOUGHT THAT NINA-CHAN WAS GOING TO BE HERE.


AND THEN PUNTED YOU AT THE INTERVIEW IS PRETTY HARSH
THE FACT THAT THEY RE THE ONES THAT OFFERED YOU THE OPPORTUNITY
BUT, YOU KNOW...


NOR THE SECTION CHIEF THAT INTERVIEWED ME ARE AT FAULT
NEITHER THE FORMER COWORKER THAT GAVE ME THE CALL.
NAH.
OH ..

AND SO,
THE IDEA OF HIRING MORE PEOPLE GOT SCRAPPED, TOO
BUT THAT WHOLE PROJECT GOT SCRAPPED
THEY WERE JUST TRYING TO HIRE MORE PEOPLE BECAUSE THE XXXX COMPANY HAD A HUGE PROJECT THEY WERE WORKING ON

WELL, I GUESS THIS TIME...
JUST WASN'T MEANT TO BE.
HA HA HA HA
はははは

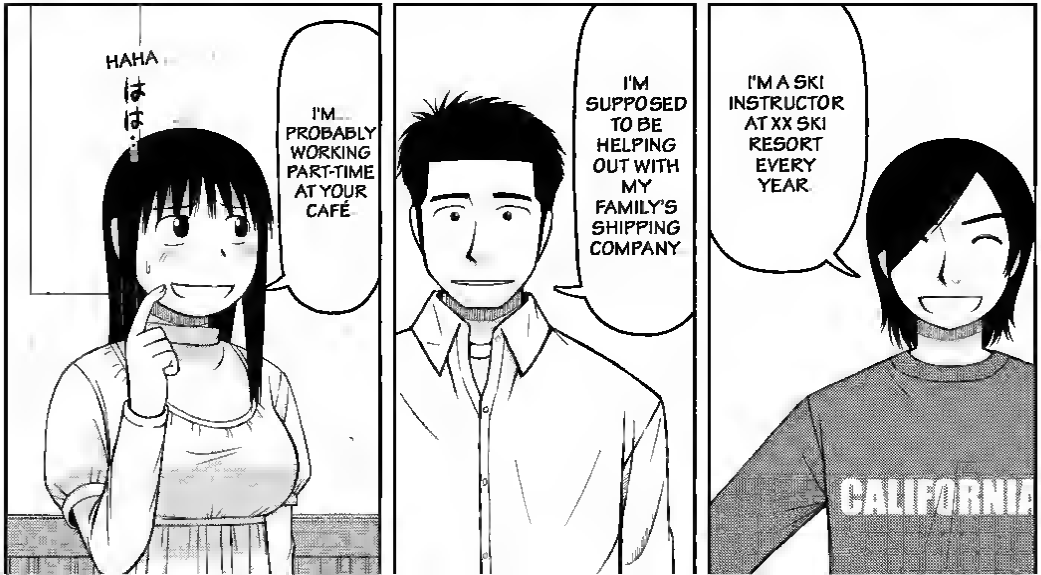
WELL...
THERE'S THAT, BUT...

はぁ～
SIGH...
YOU ARE TOTALLY DEPRESSED...

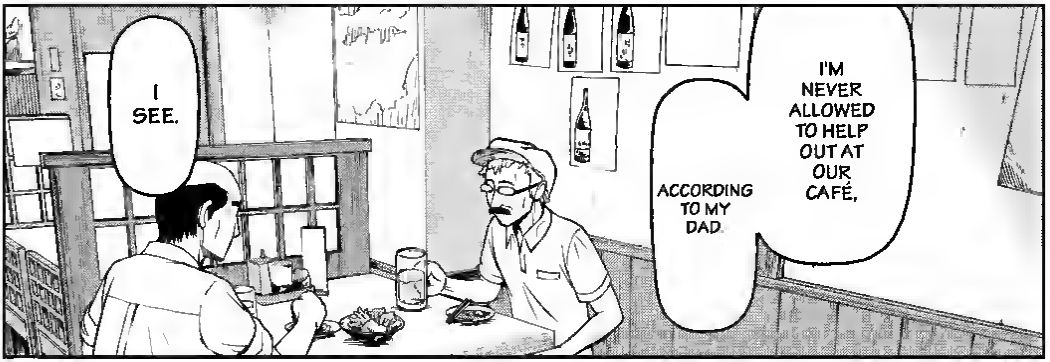
MY PART-TIME JOB HARVESTING CABBAGES IS OVER, TOO.
I'M BACK TO BEING UNEMPLOYED, AND YOU KNOW...
HM?

WELL, IN REGARDS TO FARMING,
WE'RE ALL OFF SEASON RIGHT NOW.
YEAH.
OH, RIGHT.

WHAT DO YOU GUYS DO DURING THE OFF SEASON?
YOU DON'T JUST MESS AROUND ALL WINTER, DO YOU?
OF COURSE NOT.


I'M A SKI INSTRUCTOR AT XX SKI RESORT EVERY YEAR.
I'M SUPPOSED TO BE HELPING OUT WITH MY FAMILY'S SHIPPING COMPANY
I'M... PROBABLY WORKING PART-TIME AT YOUR CAFÉ
HAHA
はは...

HEY!
IF YOU PUSH TOMOE OUT, WON'T YOUR UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEM BE SOLVED?
HEY, SHUTARO.
HA HA


I SEE.
ACCORDING TO MY DAD,
I'M NEVER ALLOWED TO HELP OUT AT OUR CAFÉ.

WELL, YEAH.
YOU GUYS REALLY ARE LIVING GROUNDED LIVES BACK HOME.

I SEE.
SO YOU GUYS ALL HAVE WINTER JOBS.

WE'RE JUST HELPING OUT AT HOME...
UM, WELL..
AND YET, I...
SHU, YOU SHOULD TOTALLY TELL THEM.
DREAMS?
BUT I MEAN, YOU HAVE DREAMS, SHU.
HEY!
HAHA. WELL, YEAH.
TALK ABOUT NOSTALGIC
YEAH. I REMEMBER THAT
THE ONE YOU USED TO TALK ABOUT IN HIGH SCHOOL, WHEREIN YOU OPEN UP YOUR OWN BUSINESS IN TOKYO?
DREAMS, LIKE..
CALIFORNIA

AND THINK ABOUT FARMING BACK HERE MYSELF
MAYBE I SHOULD BE LIKE YOU GUYS...
...
IT MIGHT JUST BE THAT TIME...
CALIFORNIA
MAYBE I'LL ASK IF I CAN WORK IN THE FIELDS AT YOUR PLACE, TOMOE...
SLAM
NEXT YEAR...

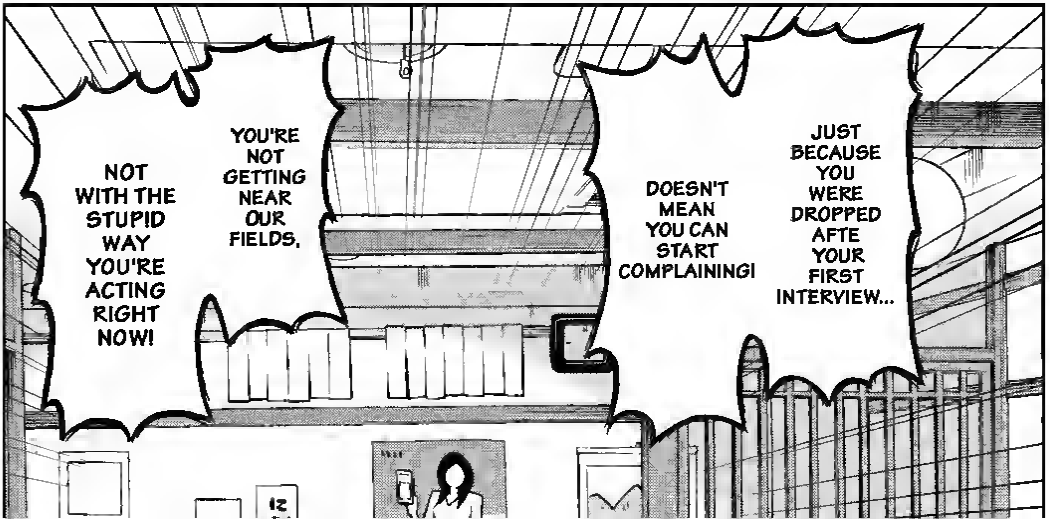
DON'T ACT SO SPOILED!

SORRY.
THAT WAS A SLIP OF THE TONGUE.

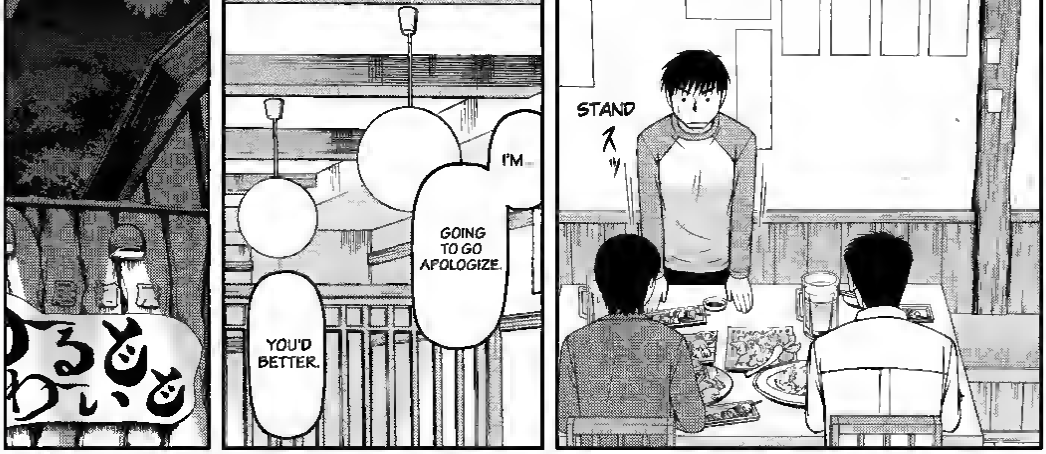
UH.
I, UH.

YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME!
SO YOU'LL HAVE TO SETTLE WITH WORKING IN OUR FIELDS?
YOU DON'T THINK YOU'L BE ABLE TO GET A JOB IN TOKYO,

BECAUSE YOU SAID YOU STARTED UNDERSTANDING THE JOYS OF FARMING!
I ONLY OFFERED TO LET YOU WORK AT MY PLACE...


NOT WITH THE STUPID WAY YOU'RE ACTING RIGHT NOW!
YOU'RE NOT GETTING NEAR OUR FIELDS,
DOESN'T MEAN YOU CAN START COMPLAINING!
JUST BECAUSE YOU WERE DROPPED AFTE YOUR FIRST INTERVIEW...

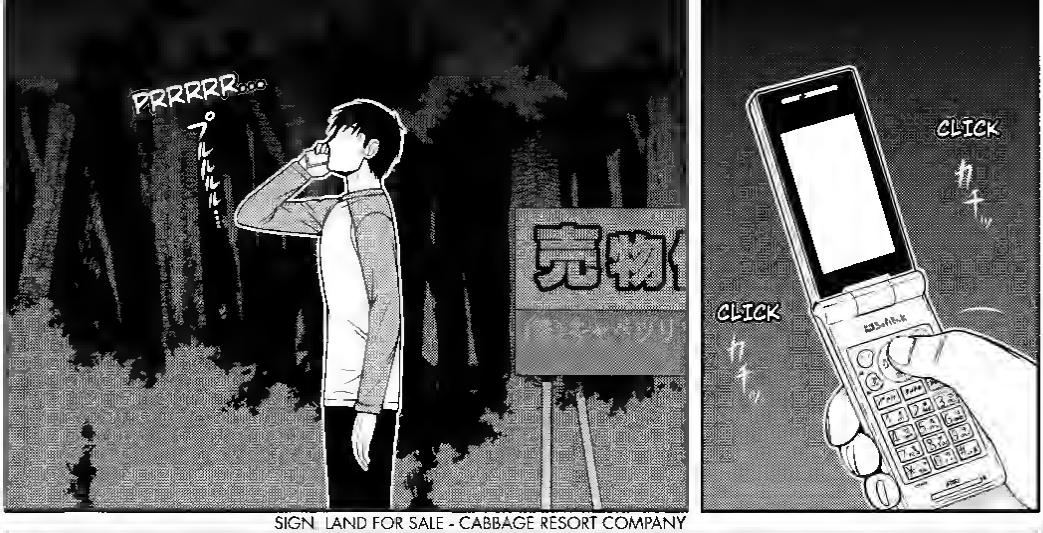
TOMOE!
I'M HEADING OUT
BAM
SHUTARO, YOU SHOULD PROBABLY HURRY AND APOLOGIZE
DAMN
PLEASE COME AGAIN!
また お越しくださいっ
...



SIGN: IZAKAYA WAARUDO WAAIDO

SIGN: DRAFT BEER

SIGN: RAMEN



SIGN: LAND FOR SALE - CABBAGE RESORT COMPANY

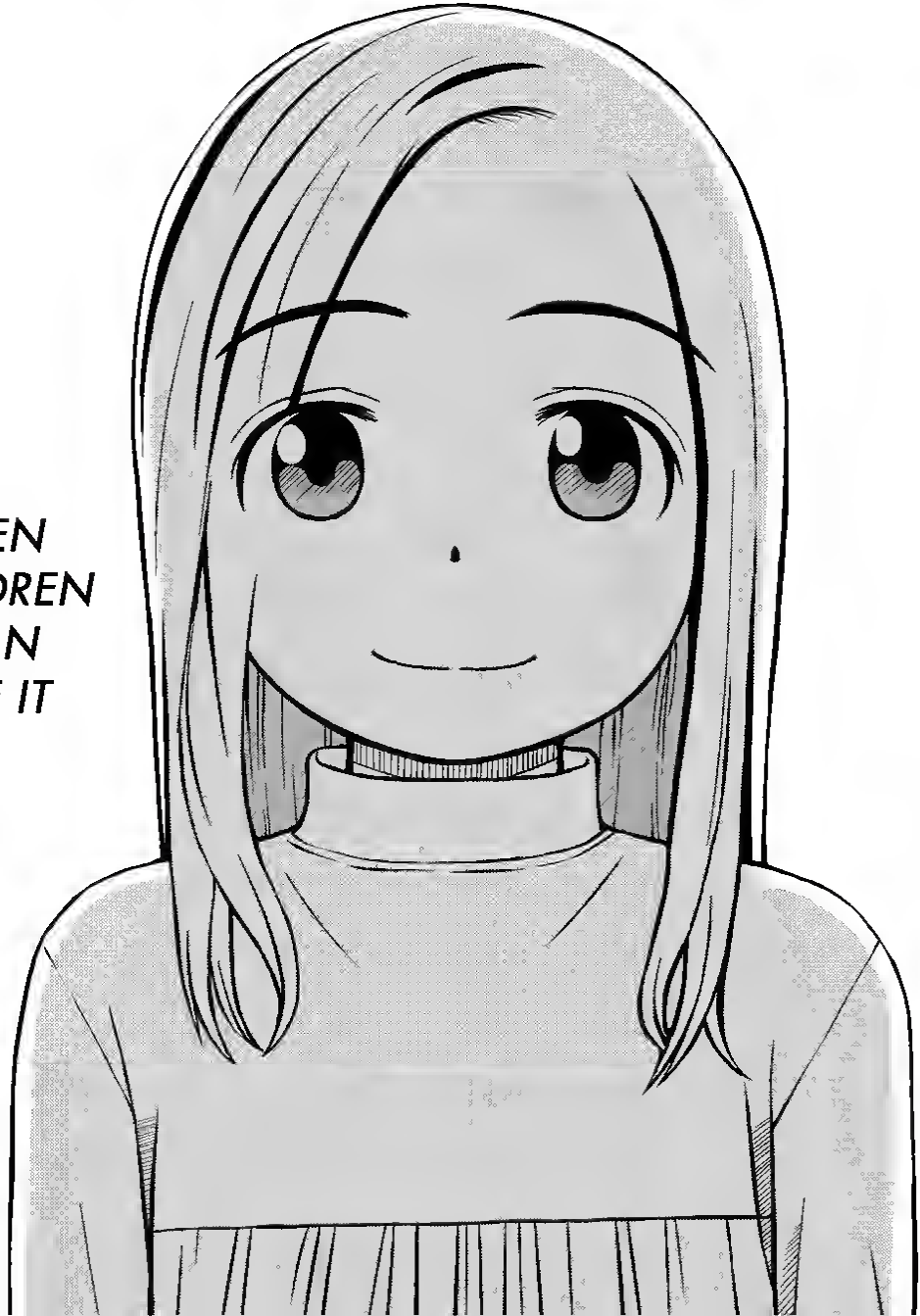
I...
WAS TAKING YOU FOR GRANTED, TOMOE...
...
I WAS AN IDIOT.
MY TONGUE REALLY DID SLIP
SO, THANK YOU...
F-
FOR SCOLDING ME.
SO...
YOU KNOW...

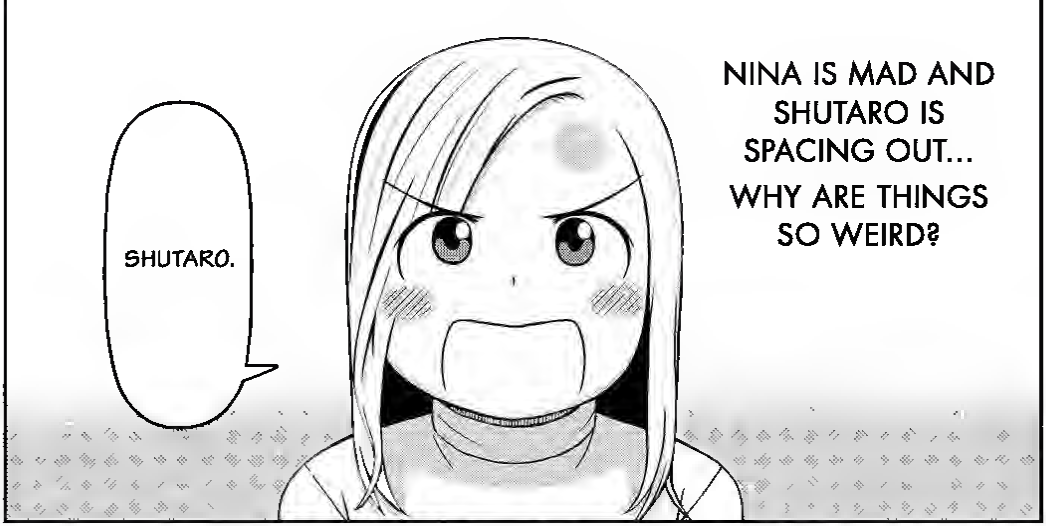
SIGN: LAND FOR SALE - CABBAGE RESORT COMPANY

DID YOU SNAP OUT OF IT?
HAHA, SORRY.
YOU'D BETTER GET A GRIP.
SHU.
TOMOE
WHAT?
I'M GOING TO PUNCH YOU.
IF YOU START COMPLAINING AGAIN,
COME ON, HOW LONG DO YOU PLAN ON SITTING THERE?
I TOLD YOU TO.
NOT ACT SO SPOILED!
COULD YOU BE A LITTLE MORE GENTLE?
THE NEXT TIME YOU KICK ME,

CHAPTER 42

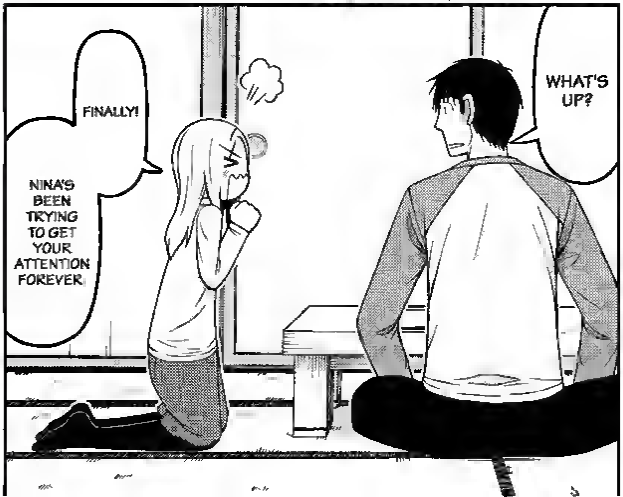
SOMEONE WHO WORRIES ABOUT YOU





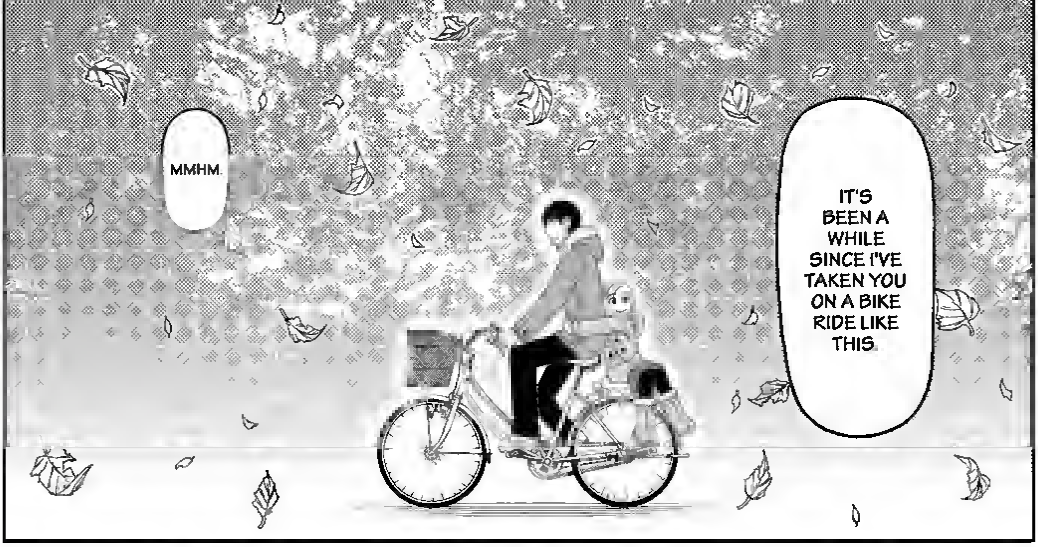
BOOK: NAGANO AND GUNMA PREFECTURE EDITION. RELEASED ON MONDAYS.

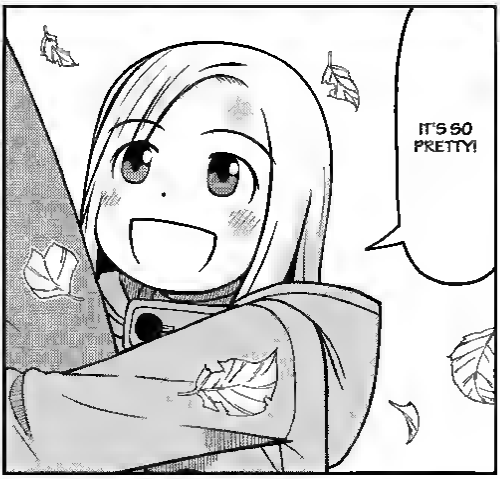
BOOK: FEATURING JOBS YOU CAN START IN THE WINTER



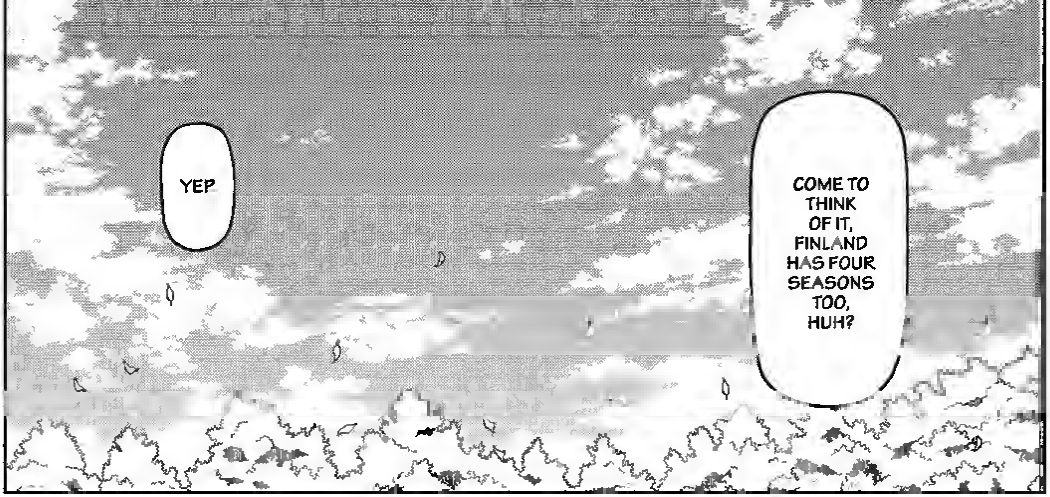
YEP
KARUIZAWA AMUSEMENT PARK?
THAT'S THE MINI AMUSEMENT PARK JUST AROUND THE CORNER, RIGHT?
THAT PLACE IS MEANT FOR KIDS THAT ARE SMALLER THAN YOU, NINA.
THAT'S FINE, NINA WANTS TO GO WITH YOU, SHUTARO
NO!
I DON'T MIND TAKING YOU,
BUT I'M A BIT BUSY RIGHT NOW, SO MAYBE ANOTHER TIME
WE HAVE TO GO NOW.

ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT
LET'S GO

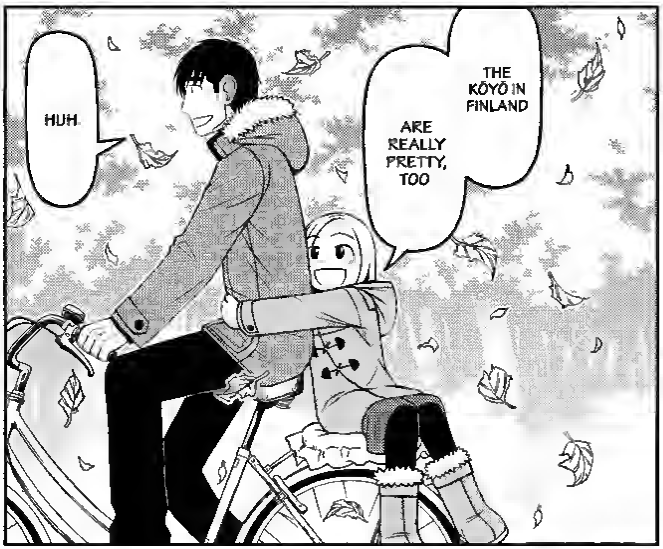




*LITERALLY "REDDISH-YELLOW LEAVES"


YEP.
COME TO THINK OF IT, FINLAND HAS FOUR SEASONS TOO, HUH?

MAMA SAID
THAT THE WORD KŌYŌ ONLY EXISTS IN FINLAND AND JAPAN.

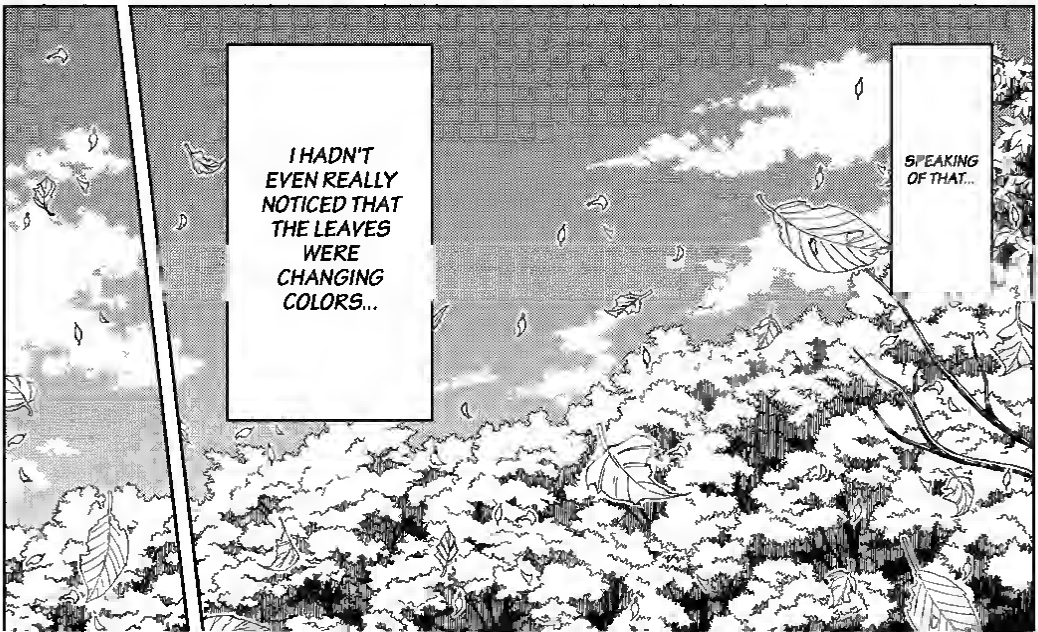

HUH.
THE KŌYŌ IN FINLAND ARE REALLY PRETTY, TOO

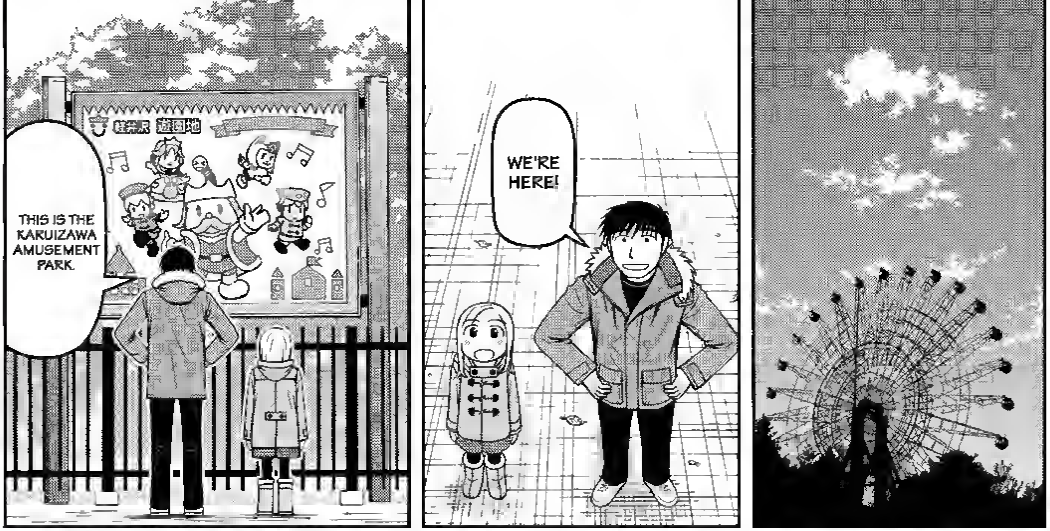
I SEE.
ALSO,
SHE TOLD ME THAT JAPANESE AND FINNISH PEOPLE'S HEARTS ARE CONNECTED

SO NO OTHER LANGUAGES HAVE A WORD FOR "REDDISH-YELLOW LEAVES?"
NOPE

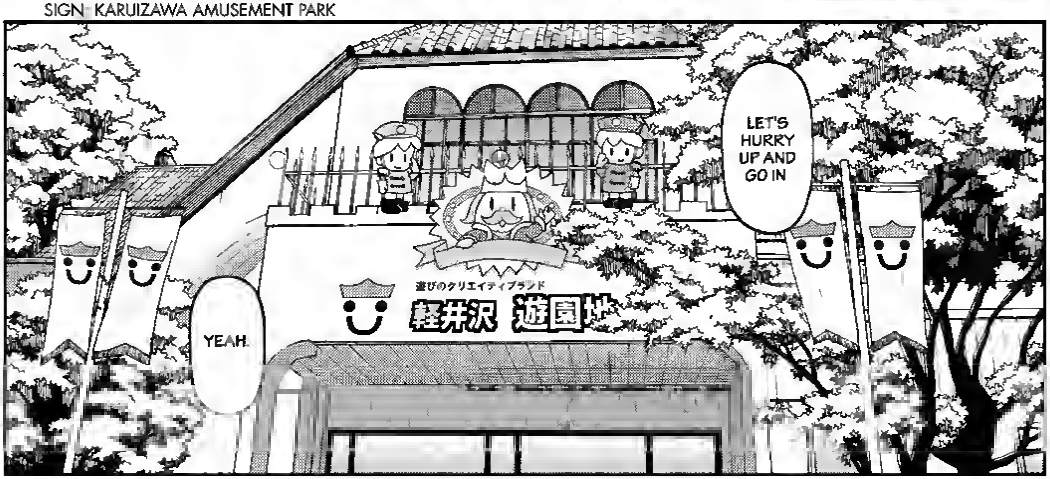
TE HE HE.
WELL, THAT MEANS YOU HAVE BOTH OF THOSE HEARTS.
VERY COOL.

REDDISH-YELLOW LEAVES, HUH...
...

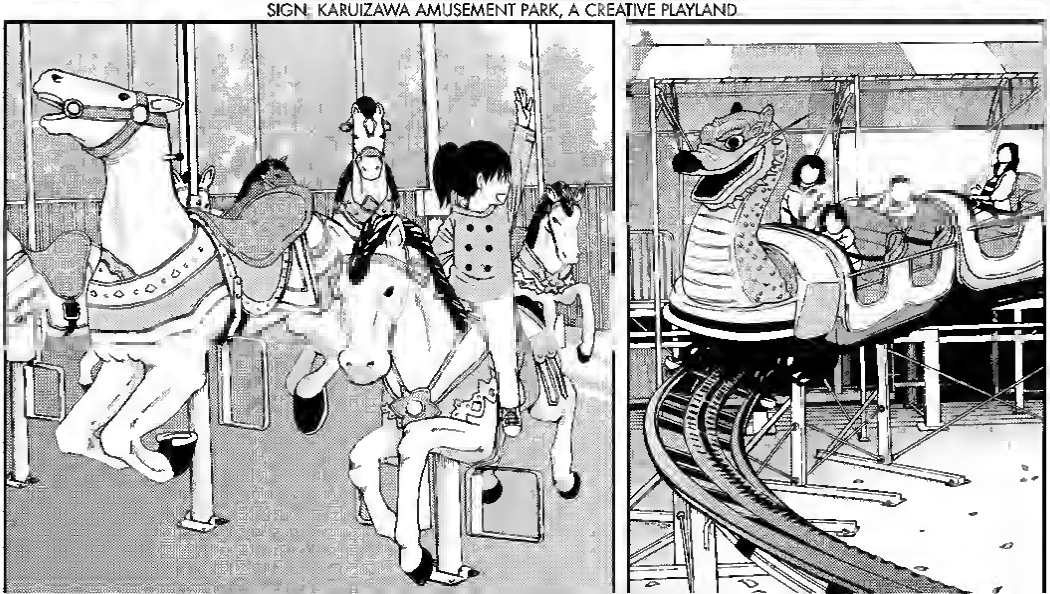

I HADN'T EVEN REALLY NOTICED THAT THE LEAVES WERE CHANGING COLORS...
SPEAKING OF THAT...

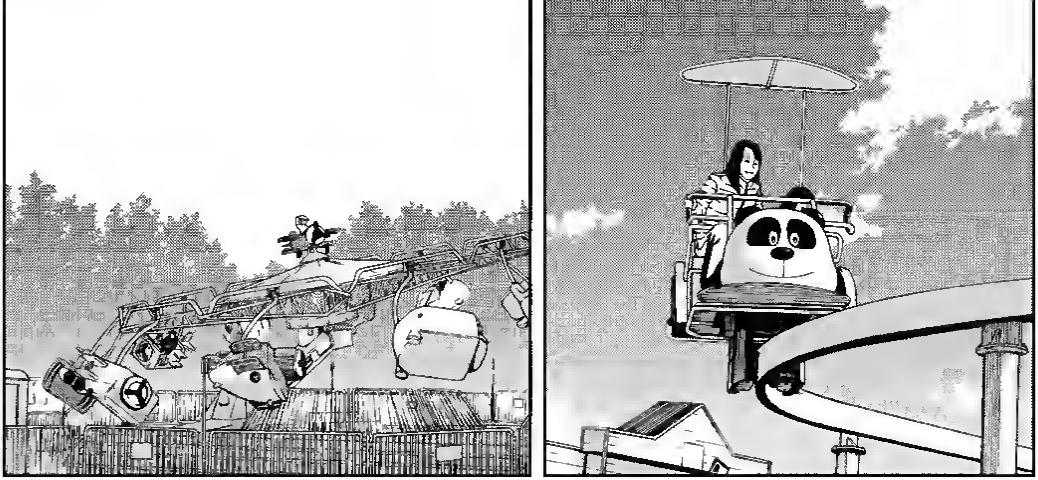


SIGN: KARUIZAWA AMUSEMENT PARK

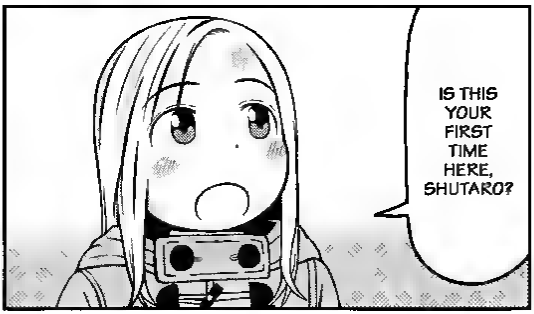


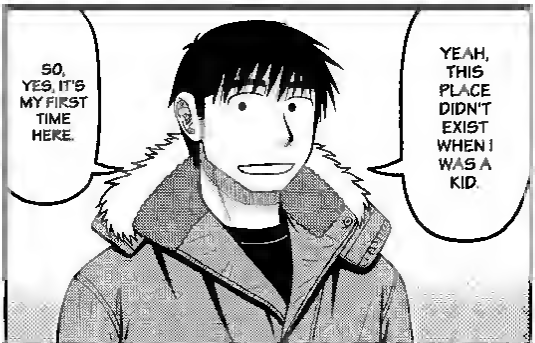
SIGN: KARUIZAWA AMUSEMENT PARK, A CREATIVE PLAYLAND



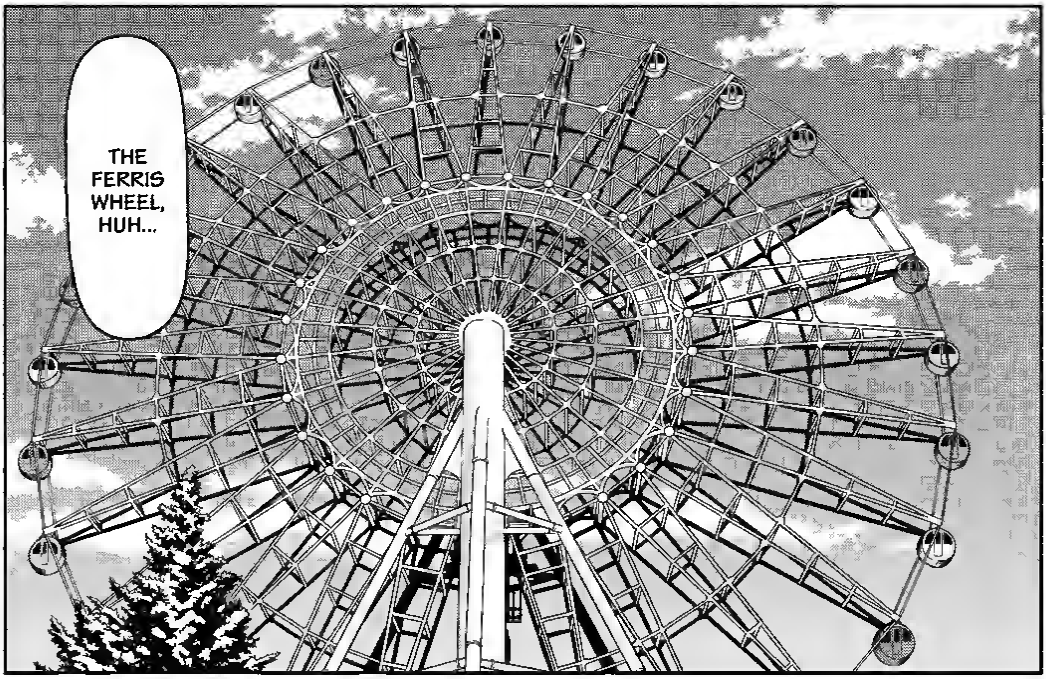


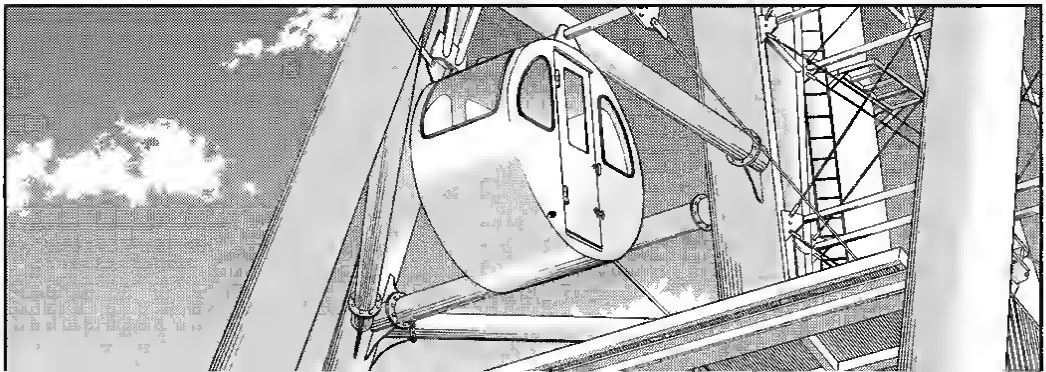
SIGN: KARUIZAWA AMUSEMENT PARK PAVILION

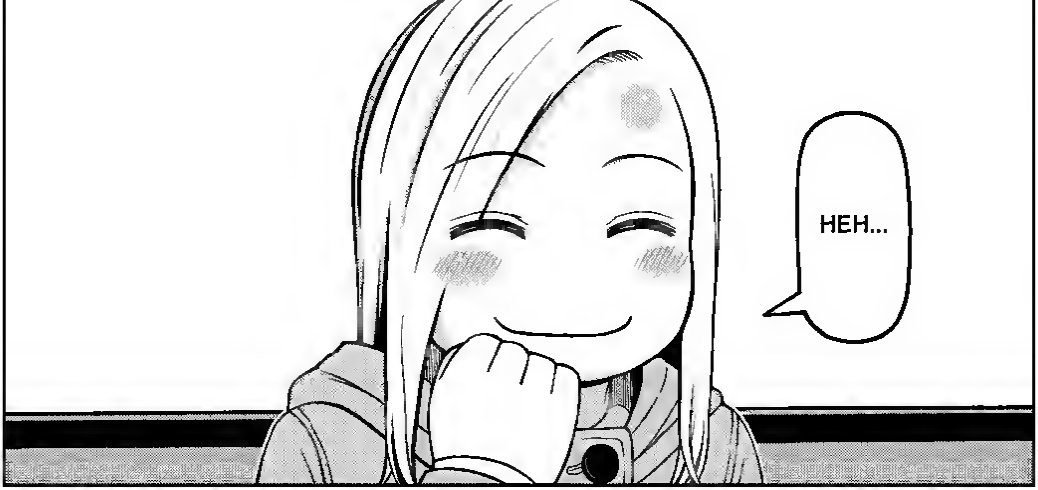


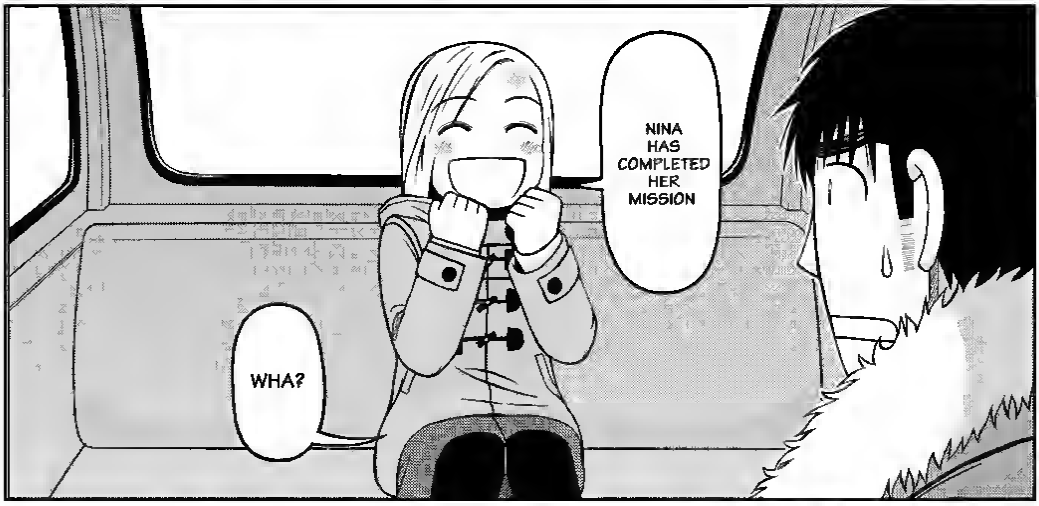


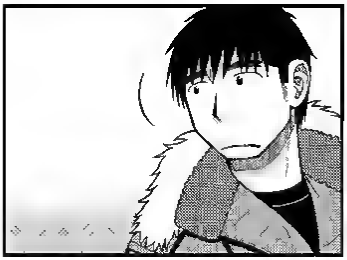
NINA WANTED TO RIDE THAT ONE.


THE FERRIS WHEEL, HUH...



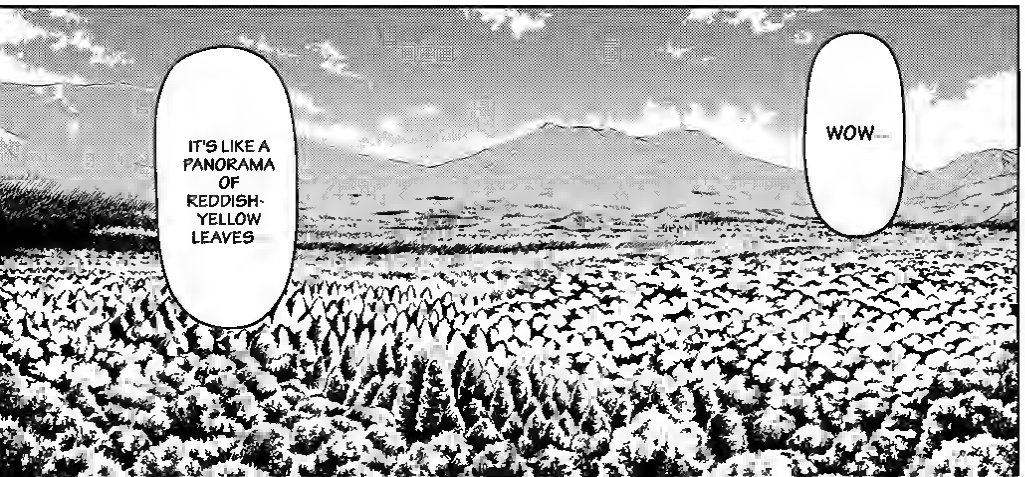

HEH...

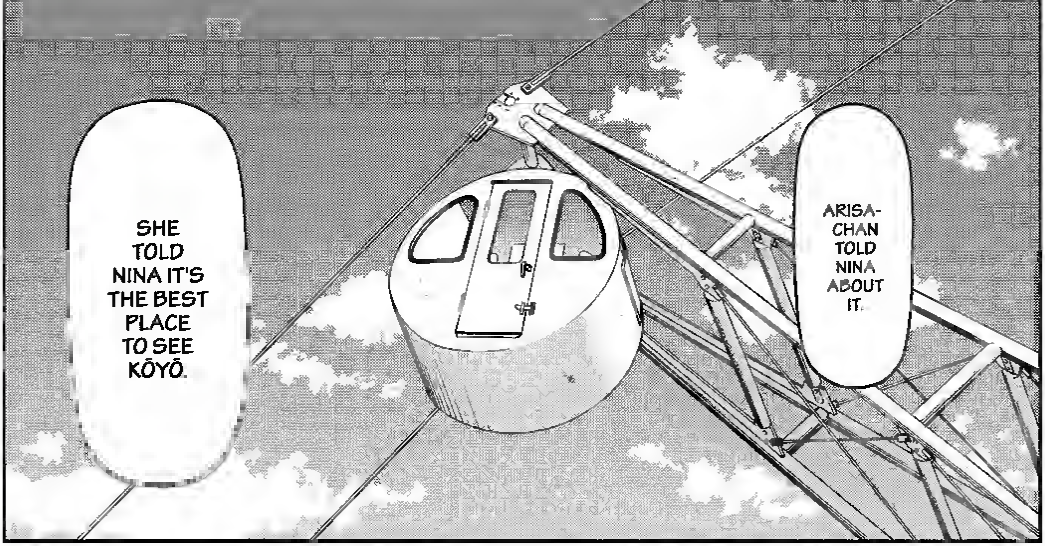

NINA HAS COMPLETED HER MISSION
WHA?

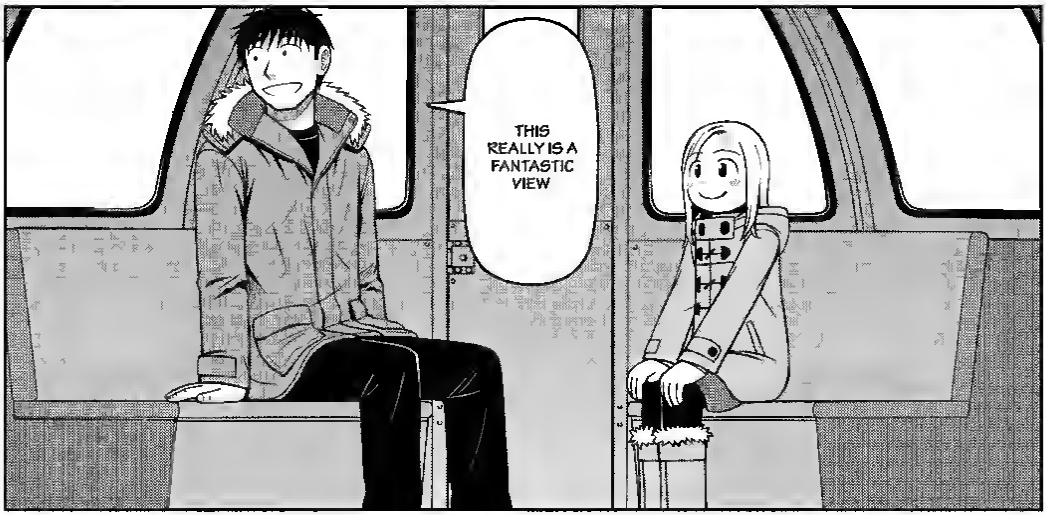


BUT, LOOK OUTSIDE, SHUTARO!
OUTSIDE?

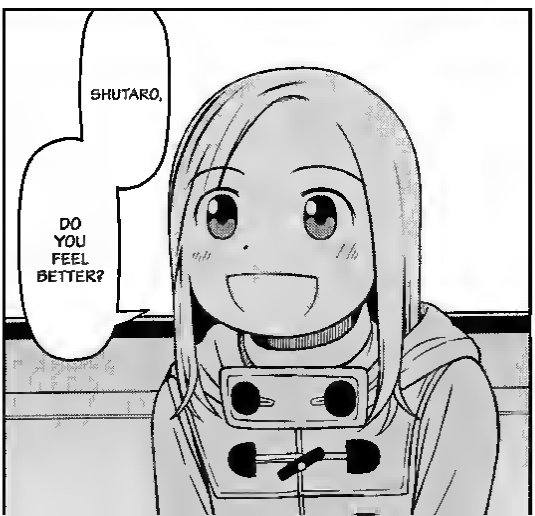
ISN'T THIS JUST A NORMAL FERRIS WHEEL?
YES, IT'S FINE


WOW...
IT'S LIKE A PANORAMA OF REDDISH-YELLOW LEAVES...


ARISA-CHAN TOLD NINA ABOUT IT.
SHE TOLD NINA IT'S THE BEST PLACE TO SEE KŌYŌ.

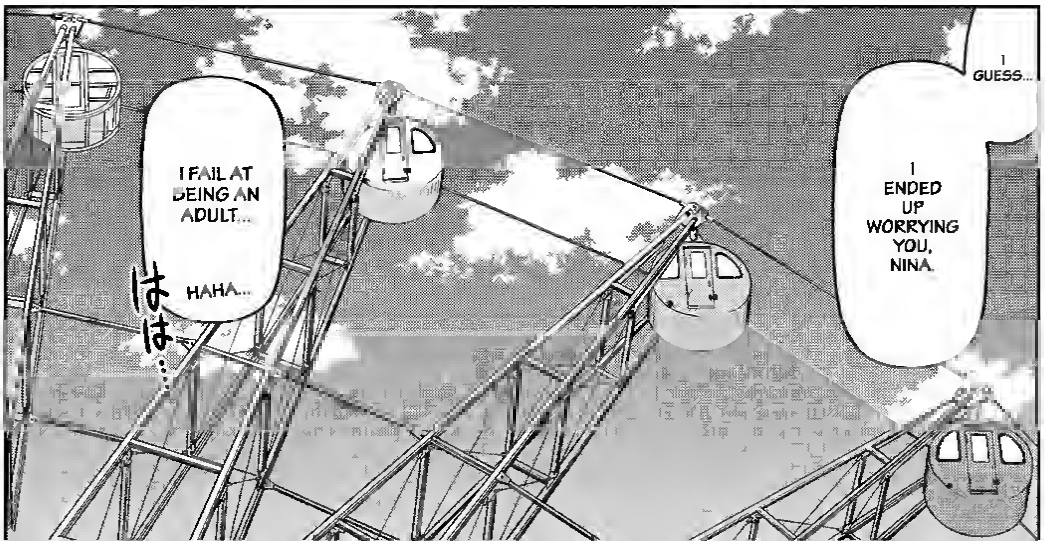

THIS REALLY IS A FANTASTIC VIEW

HUH?
...


SHUTARO,
DO YOU FEEL BETTER?

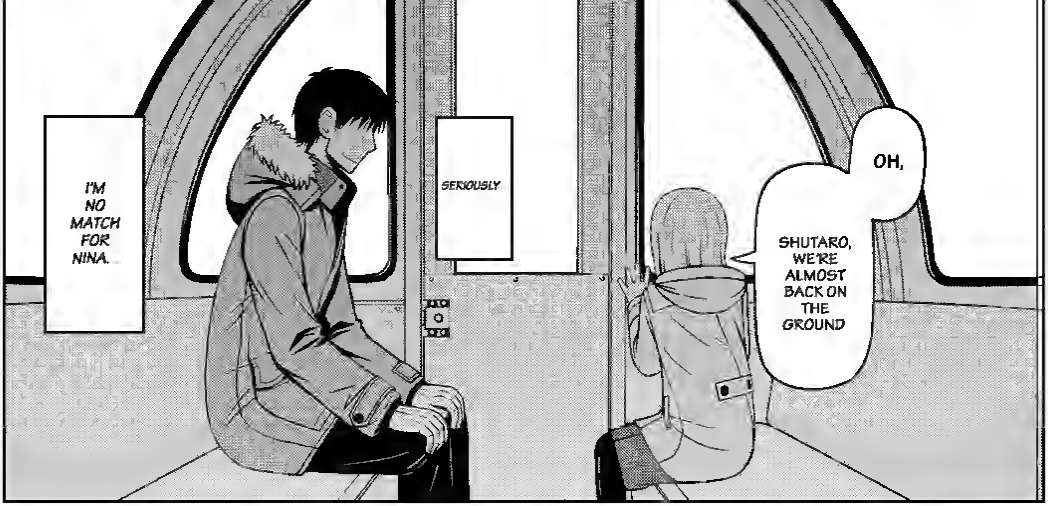
NINA THOUGHT IF WE VIEWED SOME PRETTY AURORA TOGETHER, YOU'D FEEL A LITTLE BETTER...
WELL, YOU'VE BEEN DOWN FOR A WHILE NOW, SO..

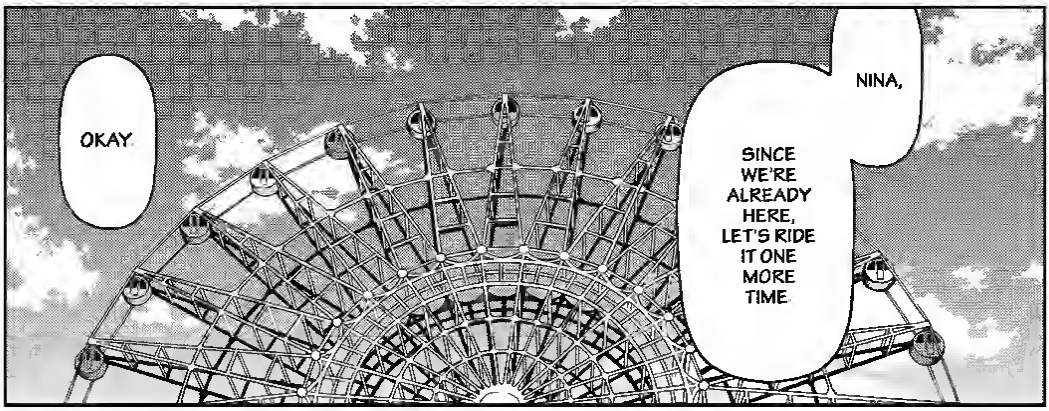
I SEE...


I FAIL AT BEING AN ADULT...
HAHA...
はは…
I GUESS... I ENDED UP WORRYING YOU, NINA.

THANKS...
I ACTUALLY DO FEEL BETTER
BECAUSE OF THAT,
HMM...
I'M REALLY GLAD
YOU'RE HERE, NINA...

THAT'S GOOD!


I'M NO MATCH FOR NINA...
SERIOUSLY
OH, SHUTARO, WE'RE ALMOST BACK ON THE GROUND


OKAY
NINA, SINCE WE'RE ALREADY HERE, LET'S RIDE IT ONE MORE TIME

YEAH
WE CAN ONLY SEE THIS BEAUTIFUL RUSKA RIGHT NOW
THANKFUL FOR THE HAPPINESS HE HAS AROUND HIM, SHUTARO LOOKS FORWARD—

CHAPTER 43

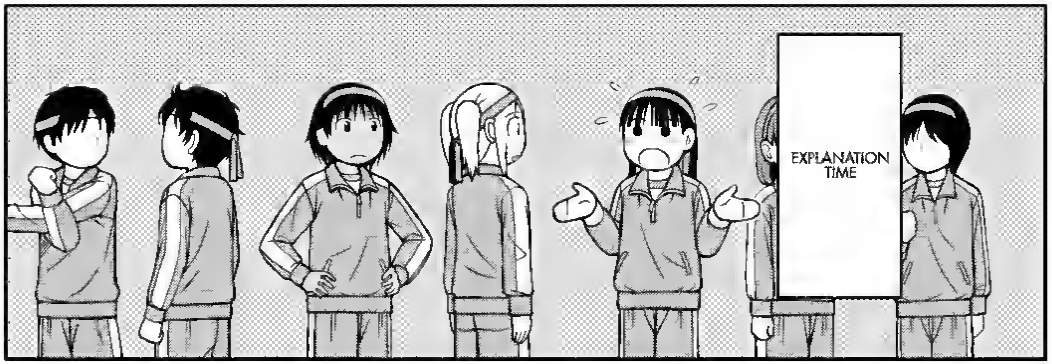
DODGEBALL

THE KIDS PARTICIPATE IN FALL SPORTS!

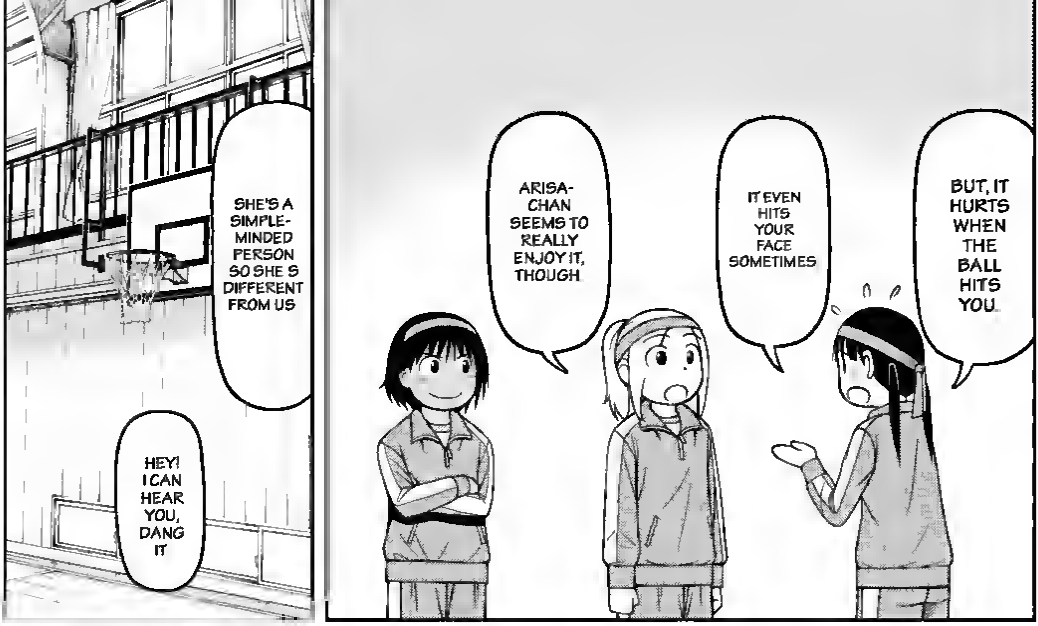
IT'S GYM TIME AT THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL...
SO,
IN GYM CLASS TODAY...
SENSEI!
WHAT IS IT, NAKAMURA?
WHAT?
WE'LL BE PLAYING DODGE-BALL
I THINK WE'D JUST BECOME TARGETS!
I THINK IT'S RATHER VIOLENT TO HIT EACH OTHER WITH A BALL
DODGEBALL FUN ARE MORISAWA-SAN AND TAKAHASHI-KUN
I THINK THE ONLY PEOPLE WHO FIND

DOWN WITH DODGEBALL!
ドッジボールはんたーい!!
KIDS THESE DAYS...
THAT JUST MEANS WE'RE GOING TO GET HIT EVEN MORE
THAT DOESN'T SOLVE THE PROBLEM AT ALL
WELL, LET'S MAKE IT SO IF THE GIRLS ARE HIT ONCE, THEY'LL BE SAFE
SO, DODGEBALL IS...
WHAT'S DODGE-BALL?
HEY, ARISA-CHAN
HM?
UH HUH...
YOU DON'T KNOW, NINA?

DON'T SAY WEIRD THINGS TO SHIMAZAKI-SAN
A SPORT WHERE YOU CAN HIT SOMEONE REALLY ANNOYING WITH A BALL
AND NOT GET IN TROUBLE FOR IT


EXPLANATION TIME

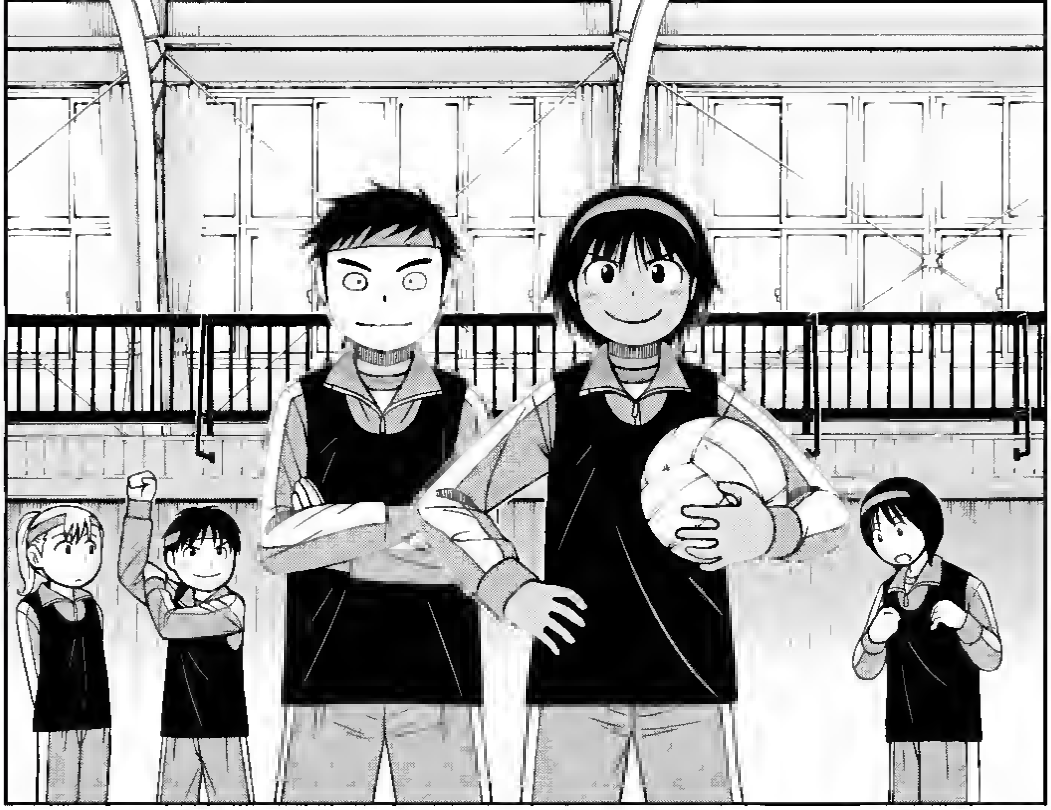
THAT SOUNDS FUN!

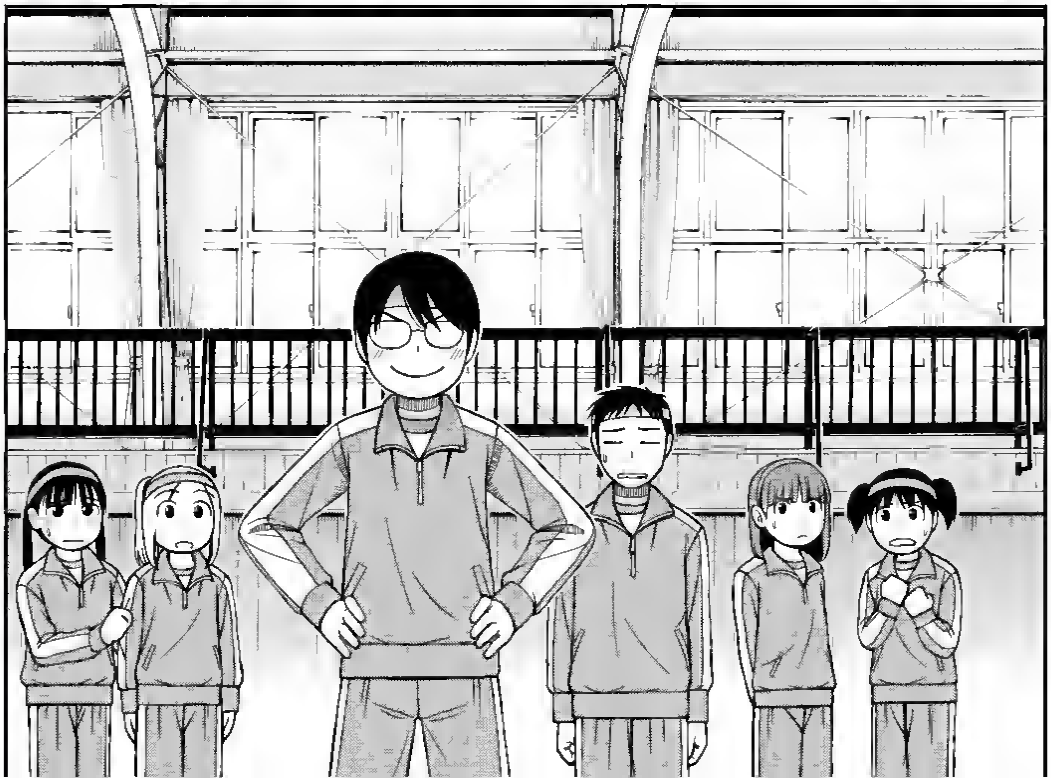

BUT, IT HURTS WHEN THE BALL HITS YOU.
IT EVEN HITS YOUR FACE SOMETIMES.
ARISA-CHAN SEEMS TO REALLY ENJOY IT, THOUGH.
SHE'S A SIMPLE-MINDED PERSON SO SHE'S DIFFERENT FROM US.
HEY! I CAN HEAR YOU, DANG IT.

THE GIRLS WILL GET TO THROW THE BALL FIRST.

ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT.

NOW, LET'S SPLIT UP.
INTO TWO TEAMS OF SIX.
はーい
OKAY

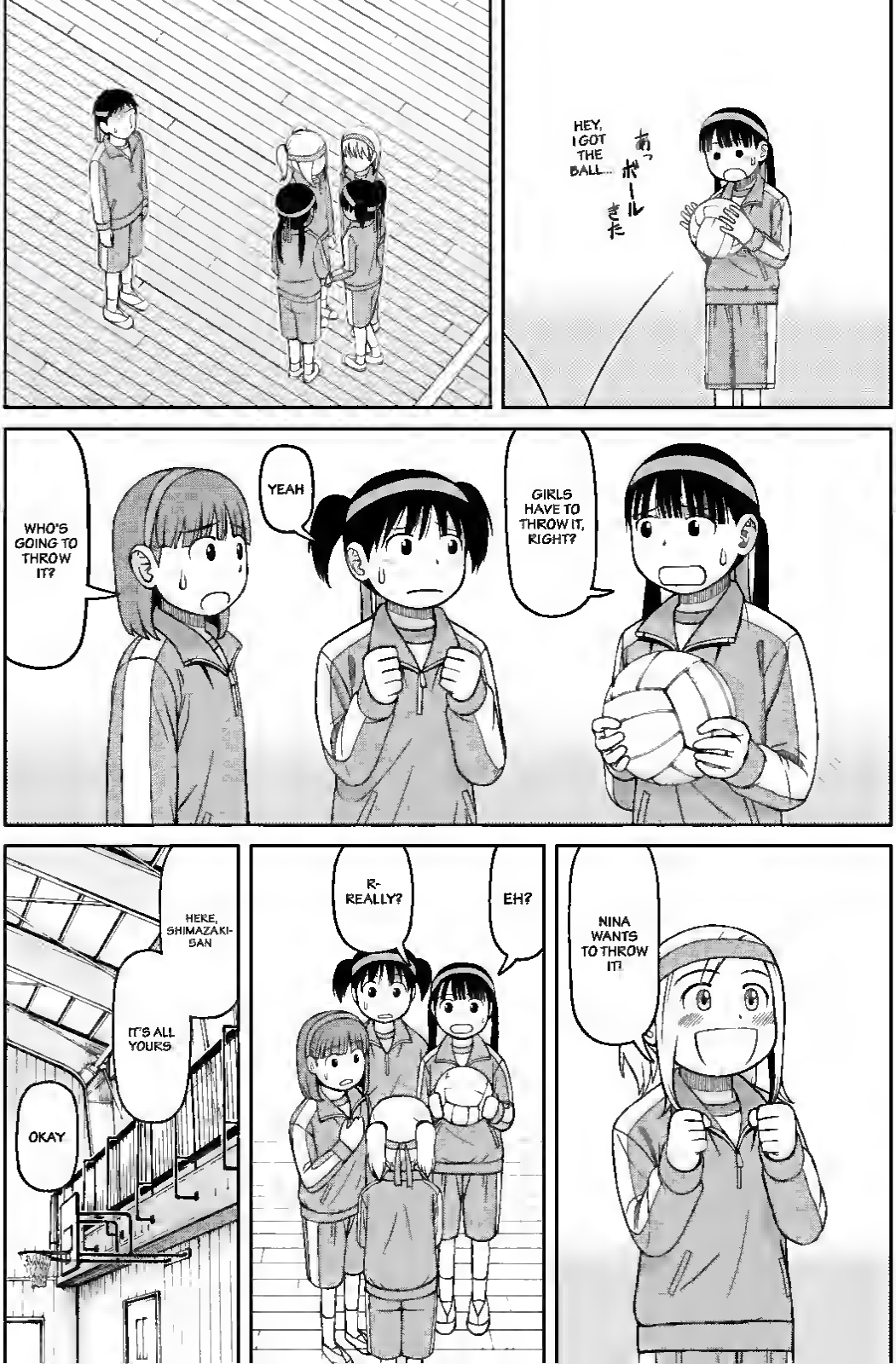




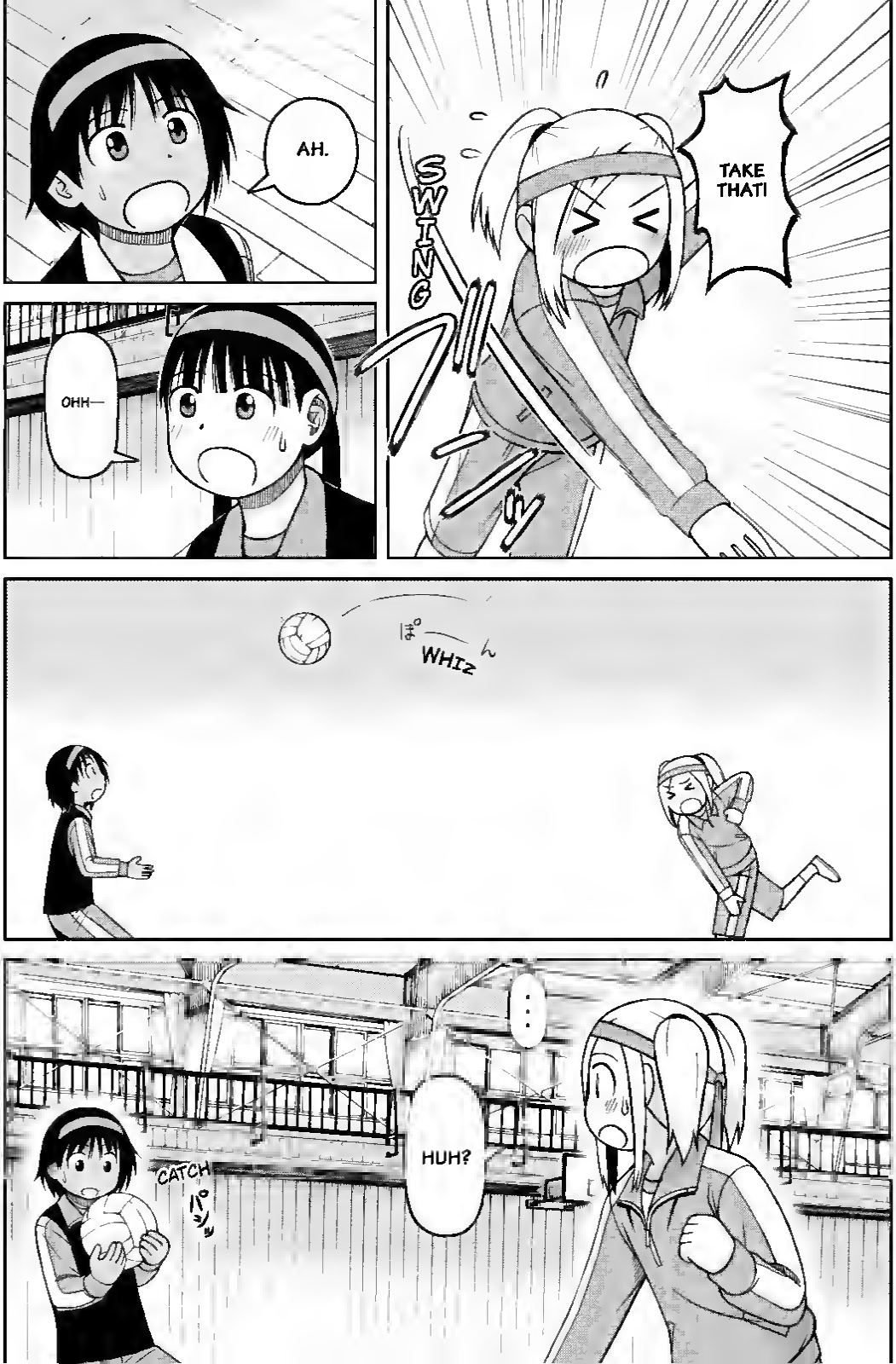
EH?!
え!?
THE ONLY RELIABLE ONE ON OUR SIDE IS HASEGAWA-KUN
ISN'T THIS PRETTY UNFAIR?

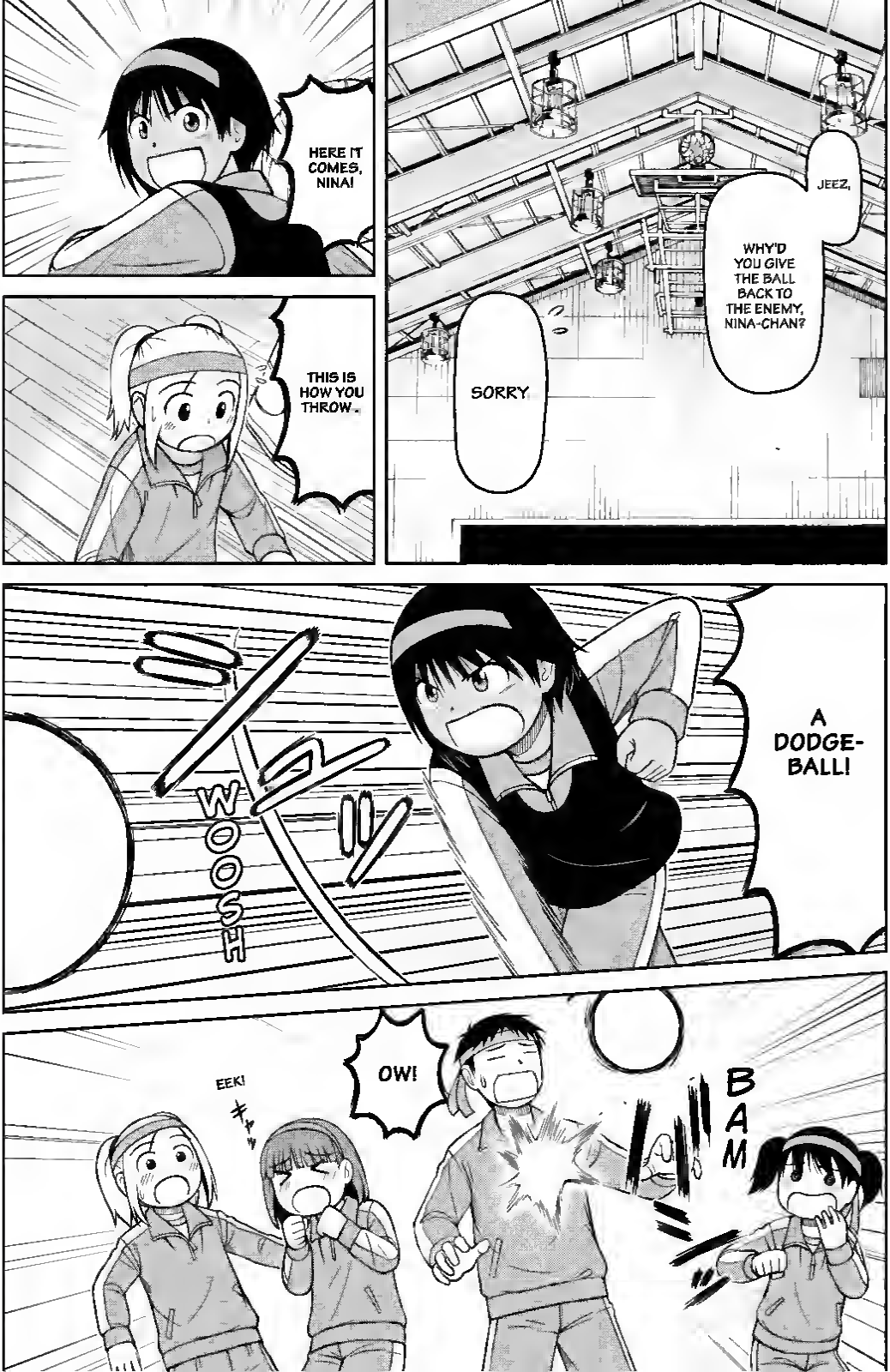
I'M A PRETTY RELIABLE GUY WHEN I NEED TO BE!
THAT'S RUDE!
GO!
はじめ!

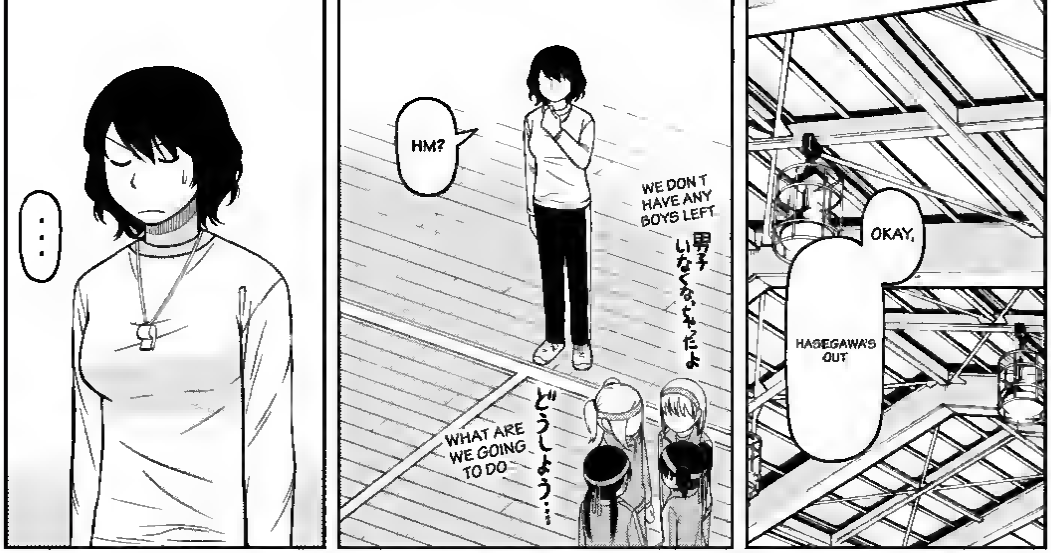
BAM
ALL RIGHT, HOSHINO'S OUT
OW!


あっ ボール きた
HEY, I GOT THE BALL...
WHO'S GOING TO THROW IT?
YEAH
GIRLS HAVE TO THROW IT, RIGHT?
HERE, SHIMAZAKI-SAN
IT'S ALL YOURS
OKAY
R-REALLY?
EH?
NINA WANTS TO THROW IT!

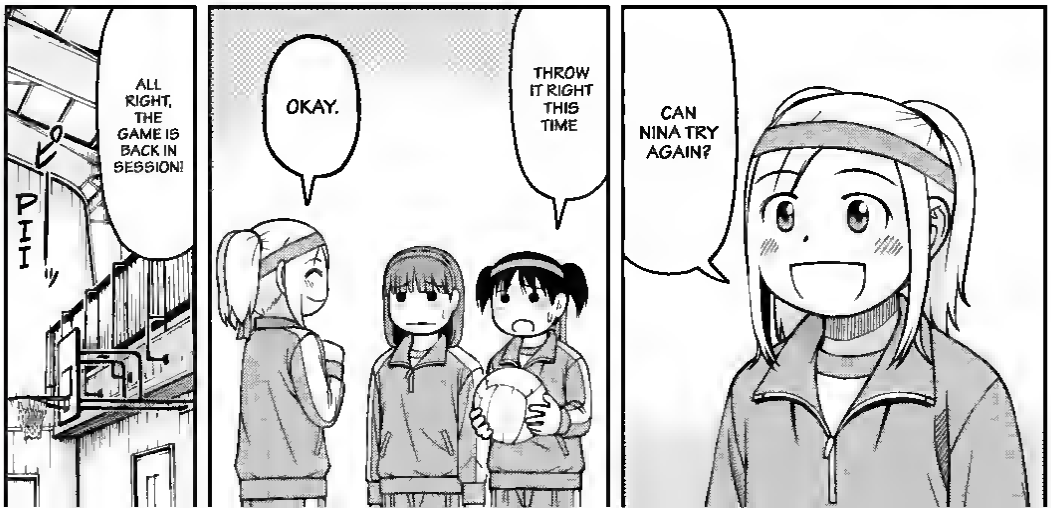
HERE IT COMES,
ARISA-CHAN.
BRING IT ON!
YOU CAN DO IT, SHIMAZAKI-SAN!
志摩崎さん がんばって!!

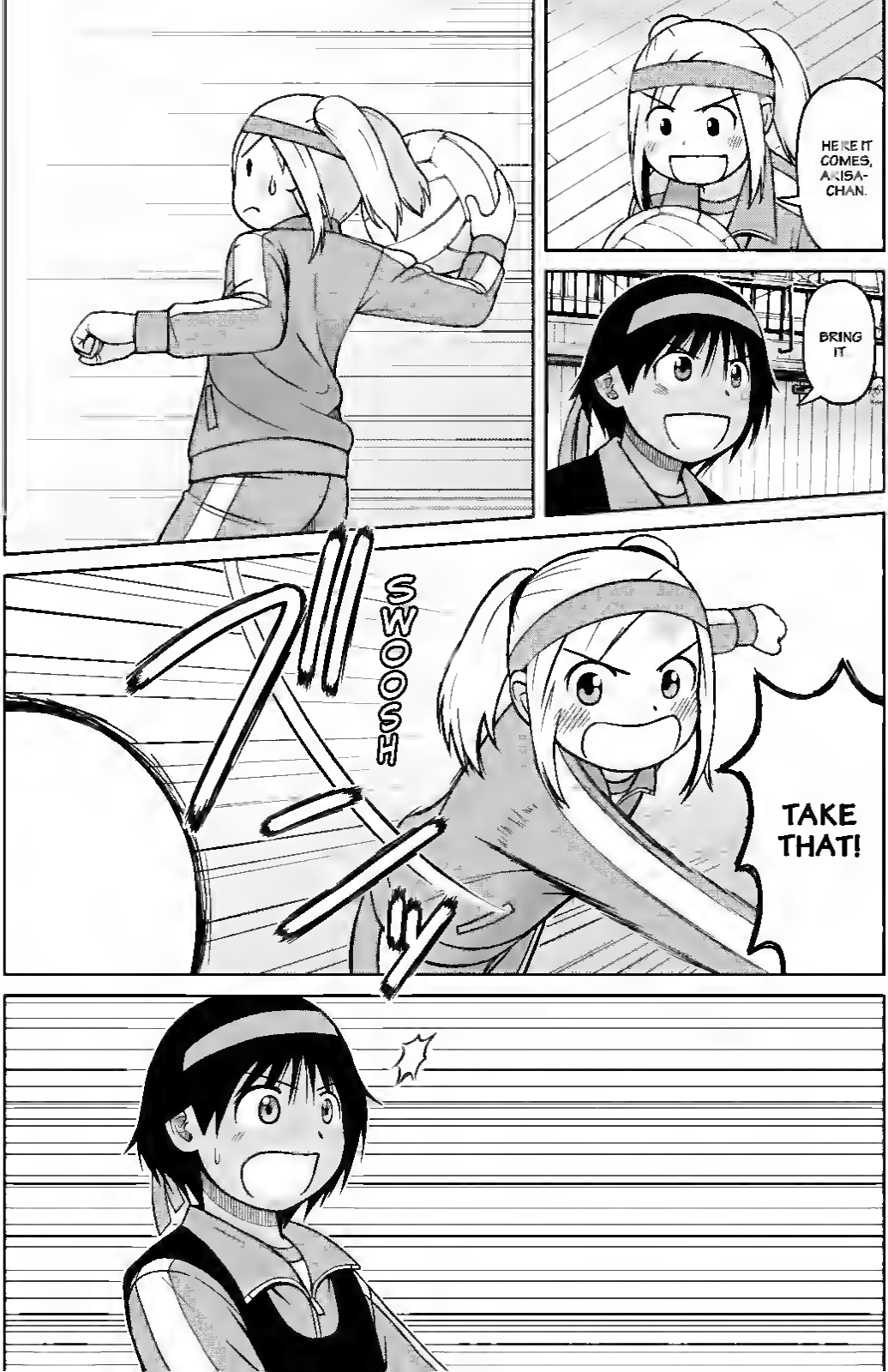

AH.
TAKE THAT!
SWING
OHH—
ぽ
WHIZ
ん
CATCH
パシッ
HUH?

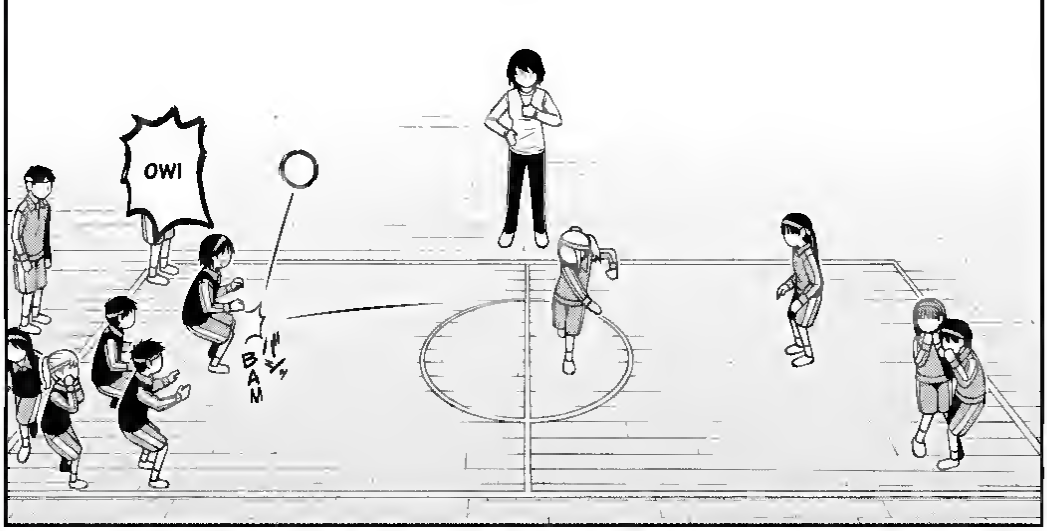

HERE IT COMES, NINA!
THIS IS HOW YOU THROW.
JEEZ,
WHY'D YOU GIVE THE BALL BACK TO THE ENEMY, NINA-CHAN?
SORRY
WOOSH
A DODGE-BALL!
EEK!
キャッ
OW!
BAM


...
HM?
WE DON'T HAVE ANY BOYS LEFT
男子いなくなっちゃったよ
どうしよう…
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO
OKAY.
HASEGAWA'S OUT

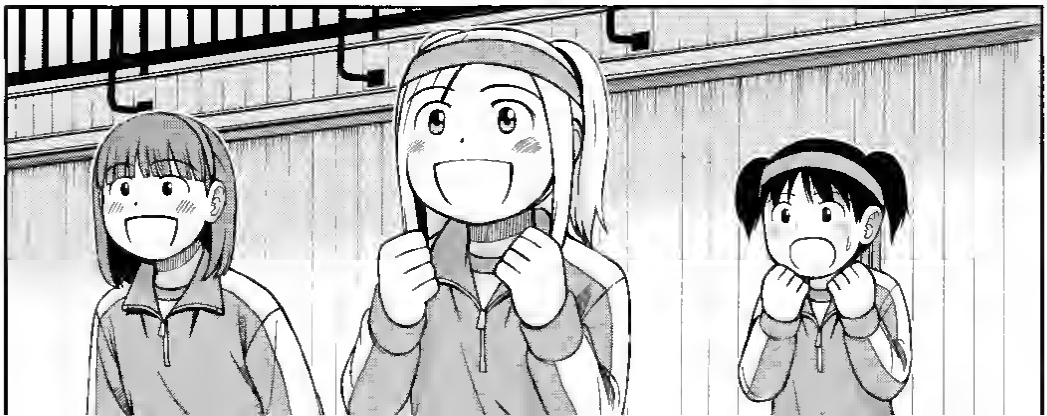
次―誰が投げる？
WHO'S THROWING NEXT?
SORRY!
YOU GUYS NEED TO STOP HAVING MEETINGS CONSTANTLY.
本当は5秒ルールとかあるのよ
THERE'S A 5-SECOND RULE, YOU KNOW?

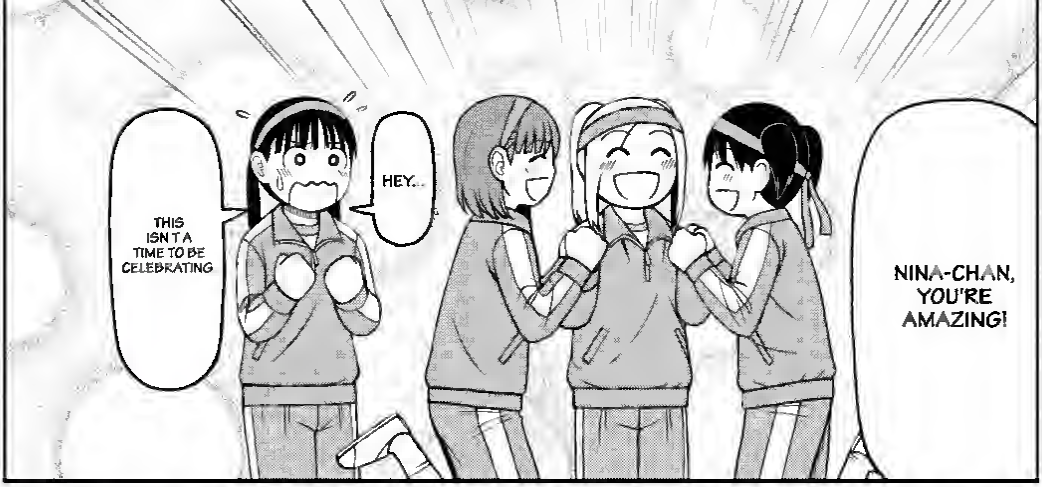

ALL RIGHT, THE GAME IS BACK IN SESSION!
ピーッ
PII
OKAY.
THROW IT RIGHT THIS TIME
CAN NINA TRY AGAIN?


HERE IT COMES, AKISA-CHAN.
BRING IT
SWOOSH
TAKE THAT!

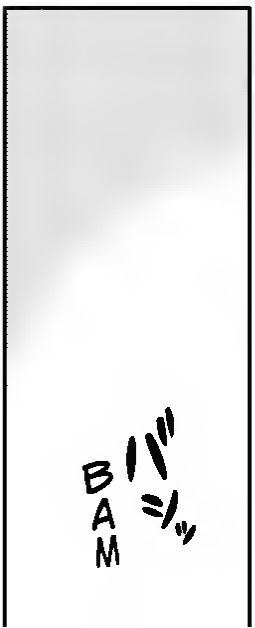

OW!
BAM

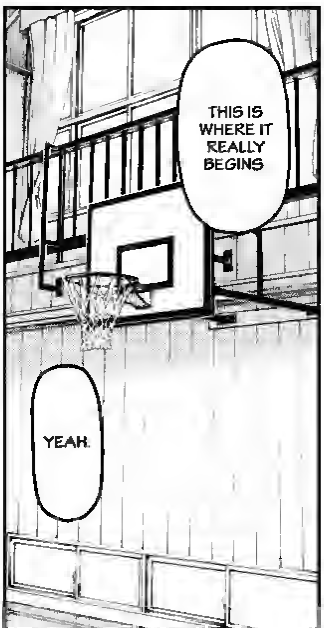
CRAP!
AWW!
WELL, MORISAWA'S OUT.



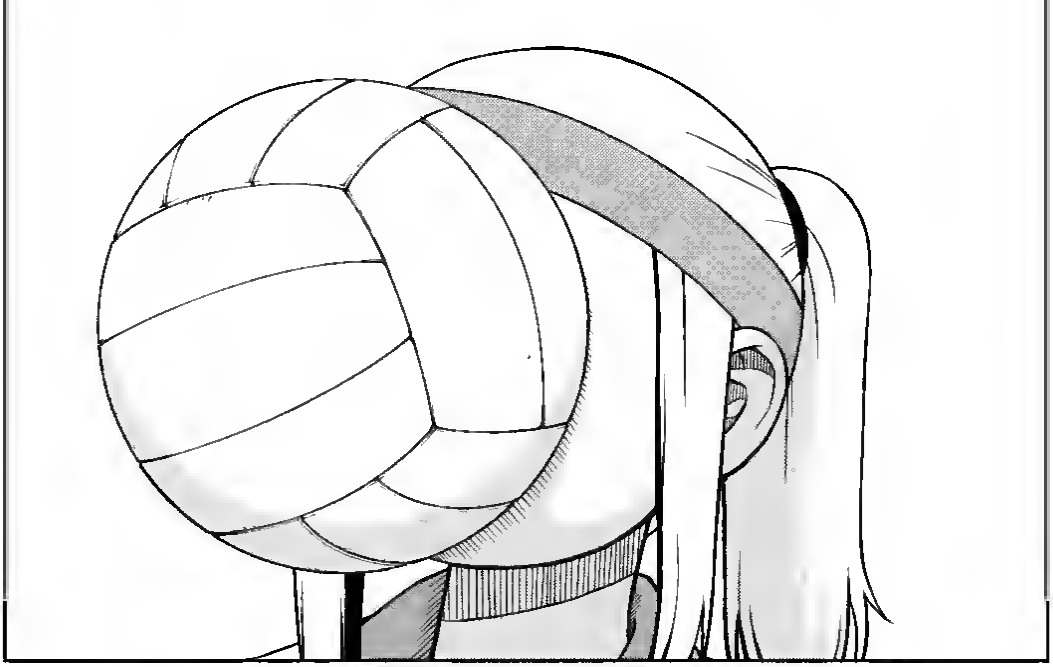

NINA-CHAN, YOU'RE AMAZING!
HEY...
THIS ISN'T A TIME TO BE CELEBRATING

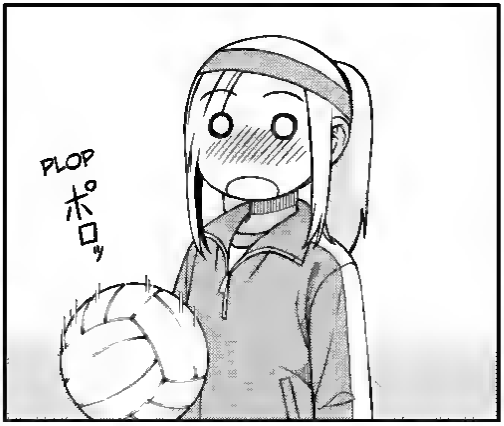
OW!
BAM
RIGHT,
KOHINATA'S OUT.

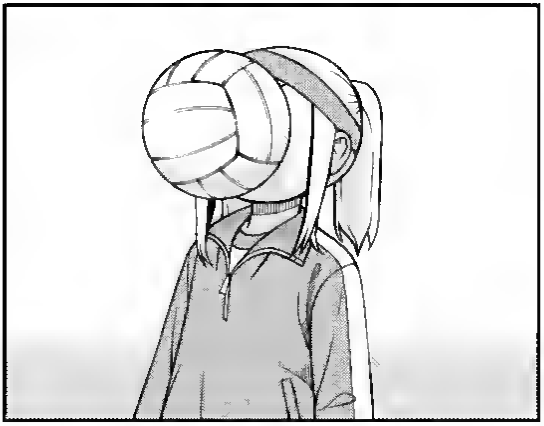

バシッ
BAM


THIS IS WHERE IT REALLY BEGINS
YEAH.

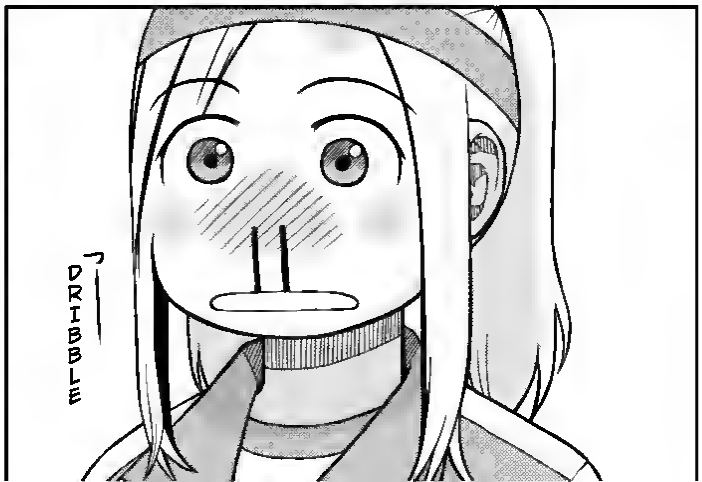
ALL RIGHT, GUYS CAN START THROWING NOW!
OKAY!
はーい

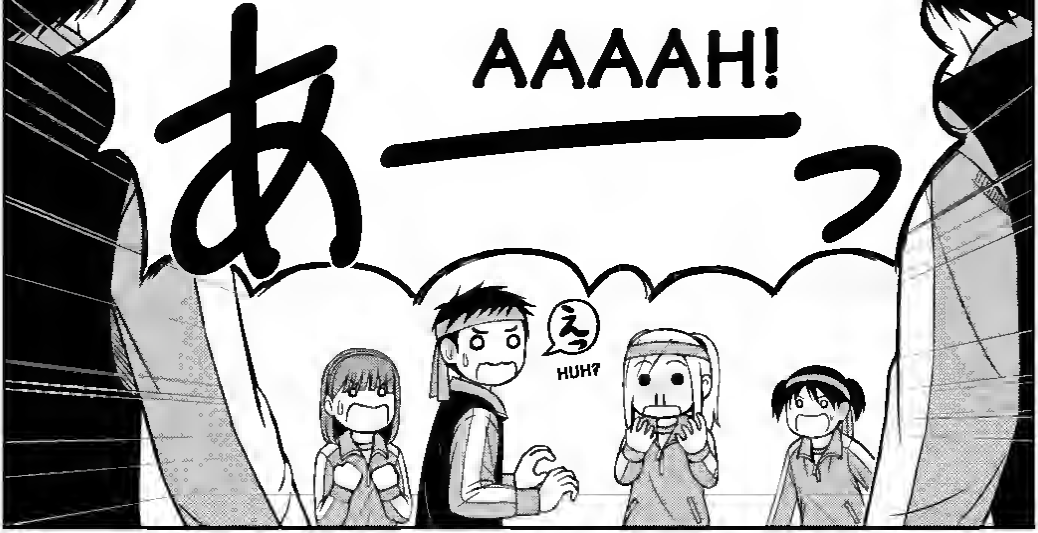



PLOP
ポロッ



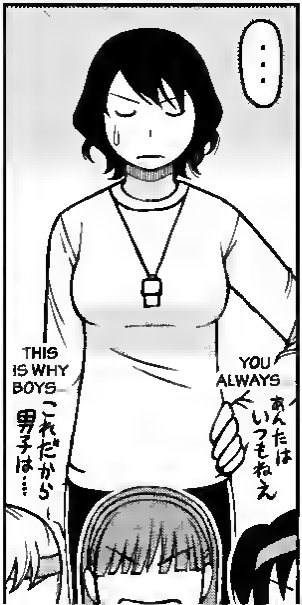
...
OH

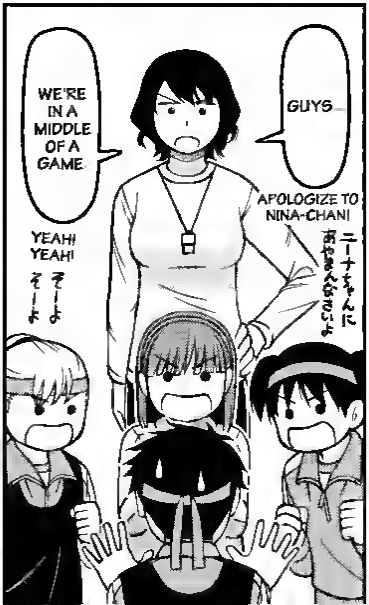

DRIBBLE

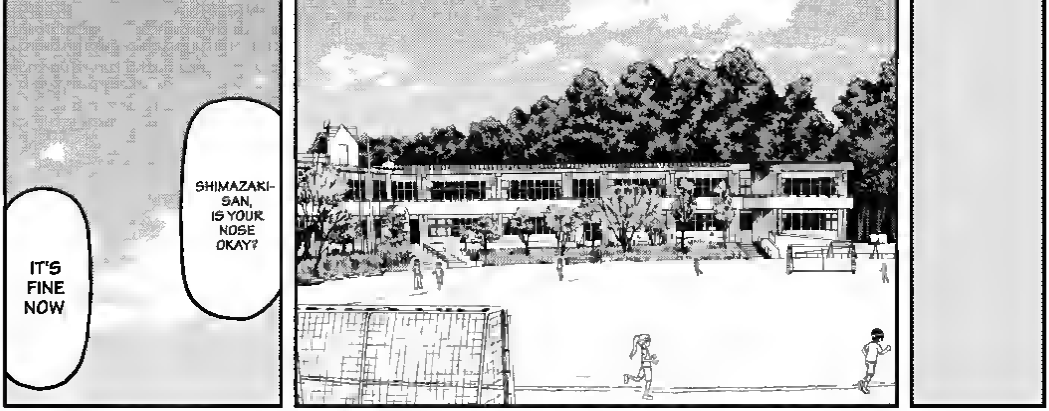

あーーーっ
AAAAH!
え
HUH?

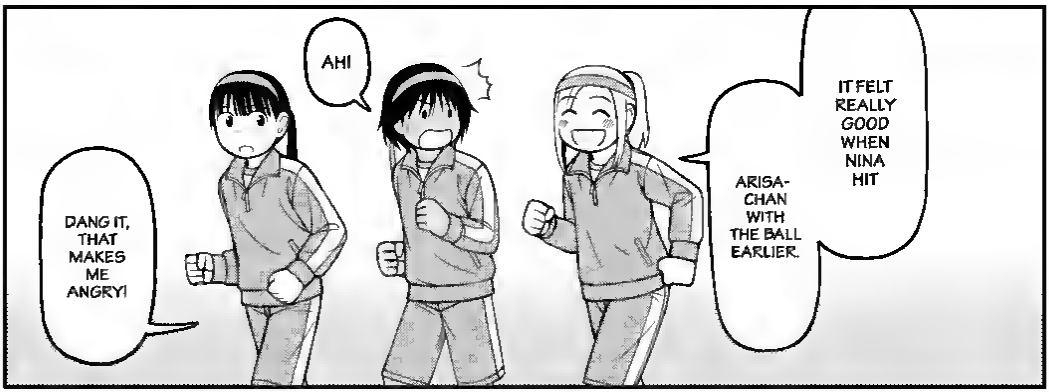
YOU'RE A GIRL'S WORST ENEMY!
AIMING FOR A GIRL'S FACE IS AWFUL!
HOW DARE YOU DO THAT TO NINA-CHAN?

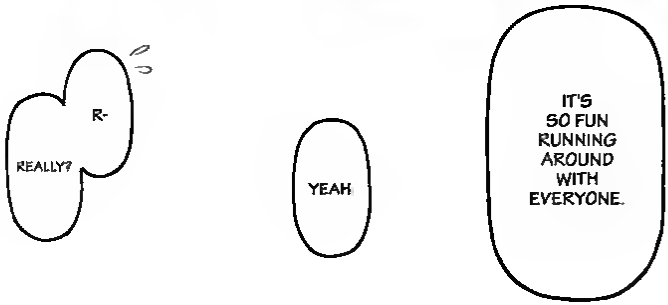
DODGEBALL IS CANCELLED!
ALL OF YOU, GO RUN THREE LAPS OUTSIDE!
えーっ
WHAT?


…
THIS IS WHY BOYS
これだから男子は…
YOU ALWAYS
あんたはいつもねえ


GUYS
WE'RE IN A MIDDLE OF A GAME
APOLOGIZE TO NINA-CHAN!
ニーナちゃんにあやまんなさいよ
YEAH! YEAH!
そーよ そーよ



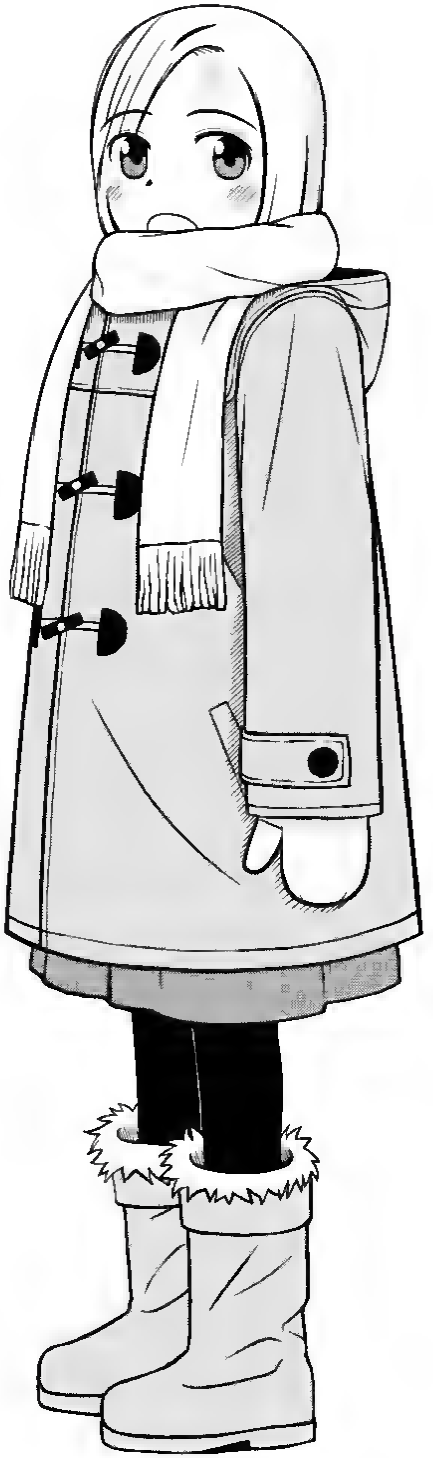




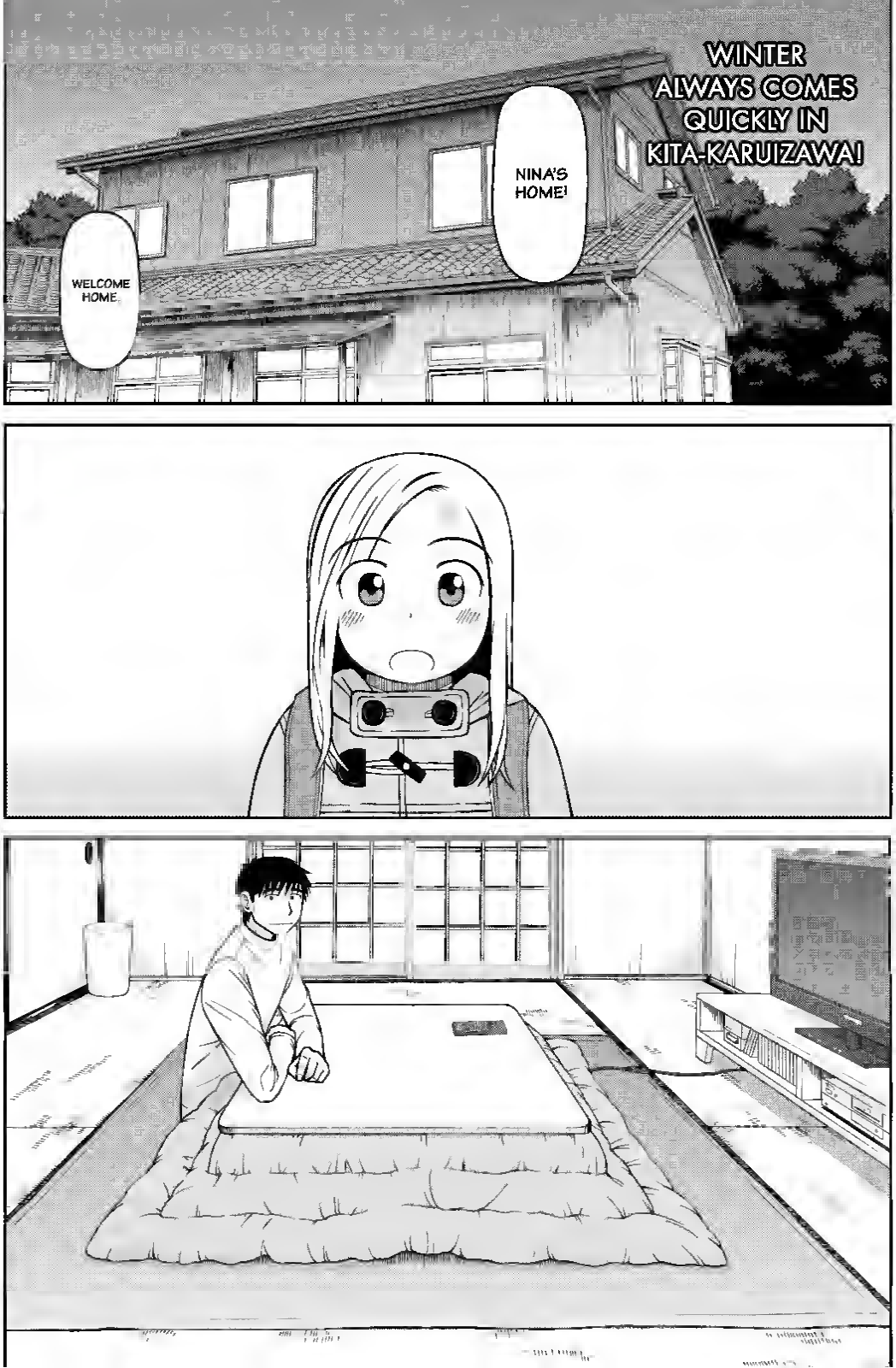
IT MAY HURT A LITTLE, BUT IT'S FUN!

CHAPTER 44

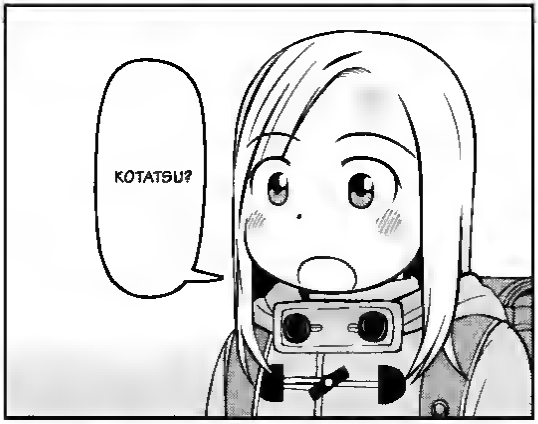
THE WARMTH OF MY FEET



WINTER CLOTHES LOOK GOOD ON YOU!

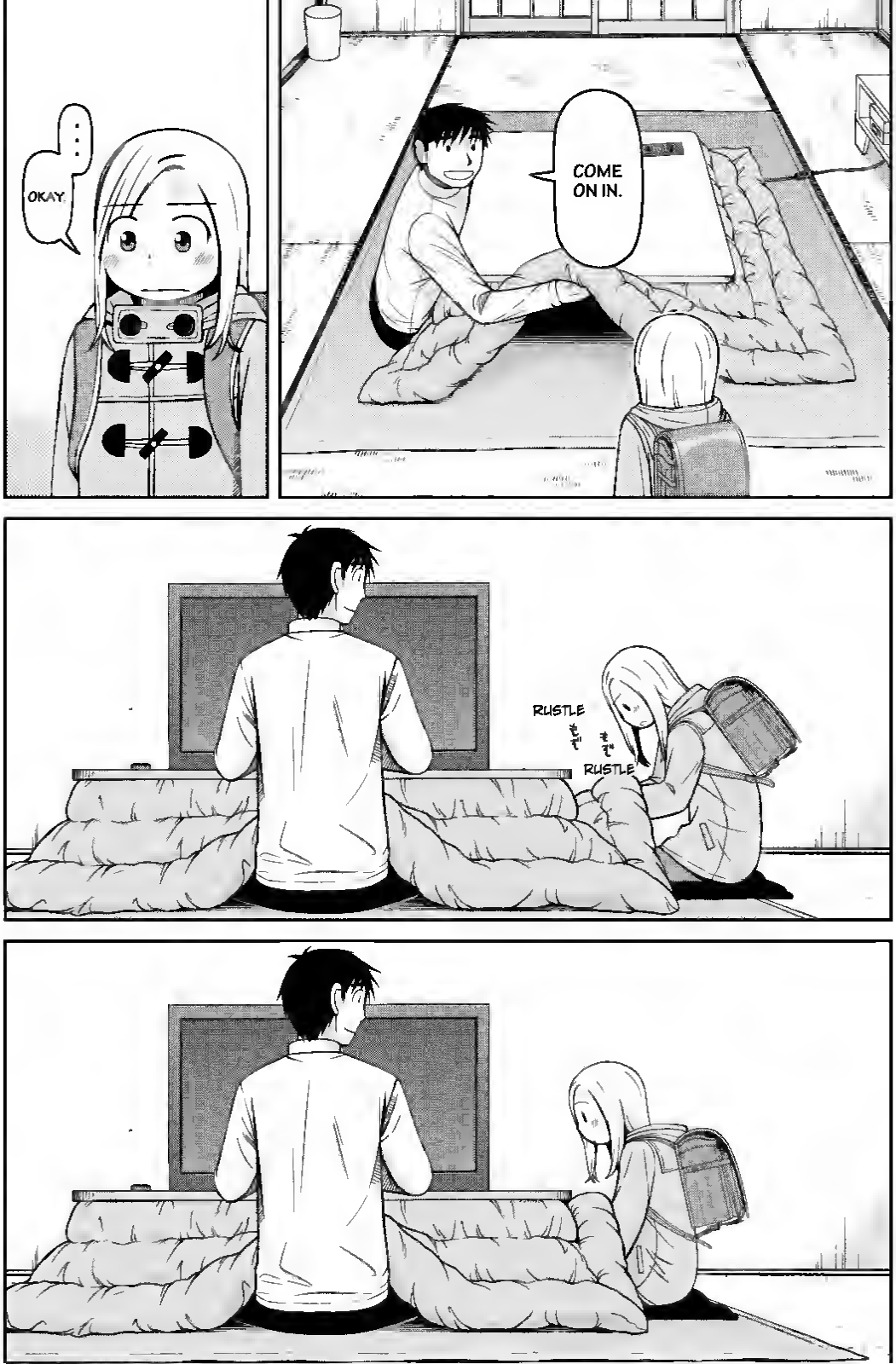

WINTER ALWAYS COMES QUICKLY IN KITA-KARUIZAWA!
NINA'S HOME!
WELCOME HOME.

SHUTARO, WHAT'S THAT?
THERE'S A FUTON COMING OUT OF THE TABLE

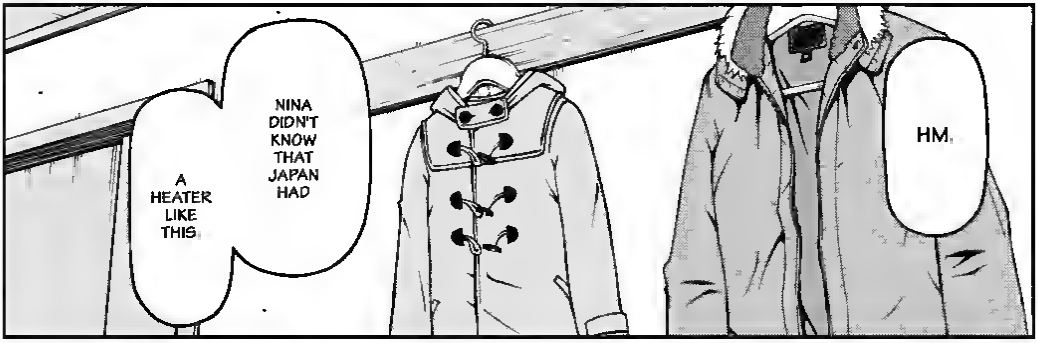

KOTATSU?

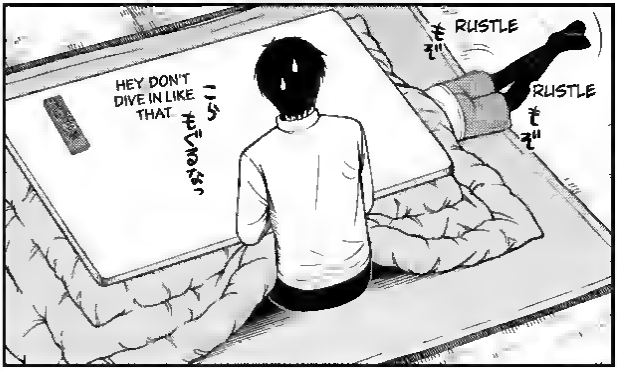
WHAT?
YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT A KOTATSU IS, NINA?

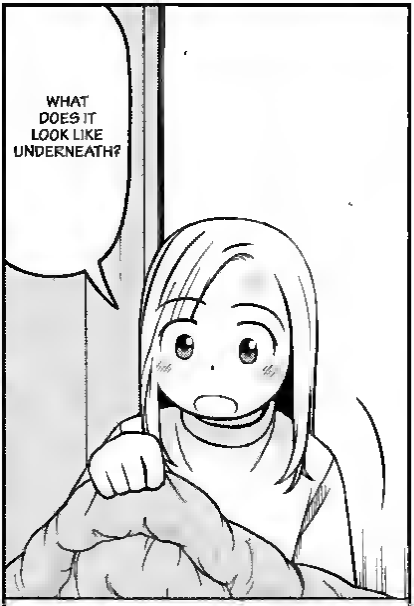
IT'S NOT WEIRD AT ALL.
HUH, THAT'S WEIRD
IT'S A TRADITIONAL JAPANESE APPLIANCE THAT IS MEANT TO KEEP YOU WARM


OKAY.
COME ON IN.
RUSTLE
RUSTLE

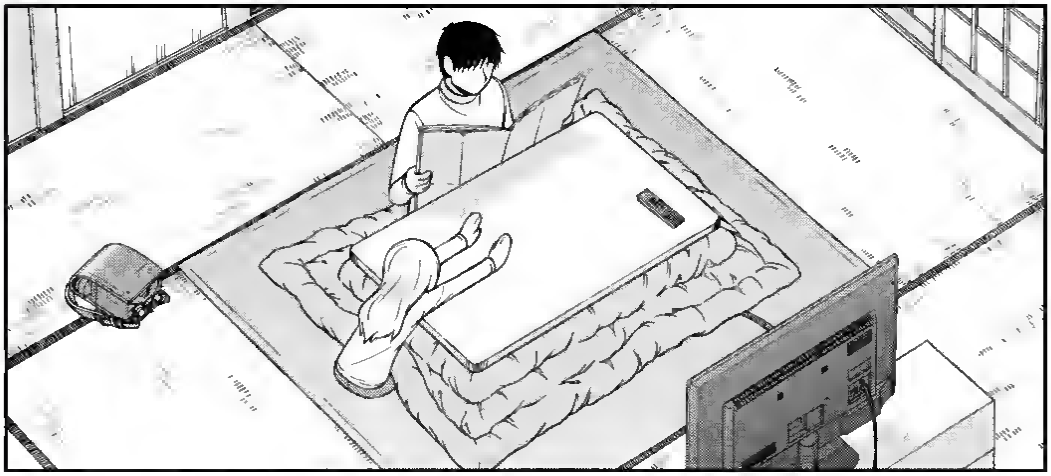
RIGHT?
IT'S WARM!
OH!

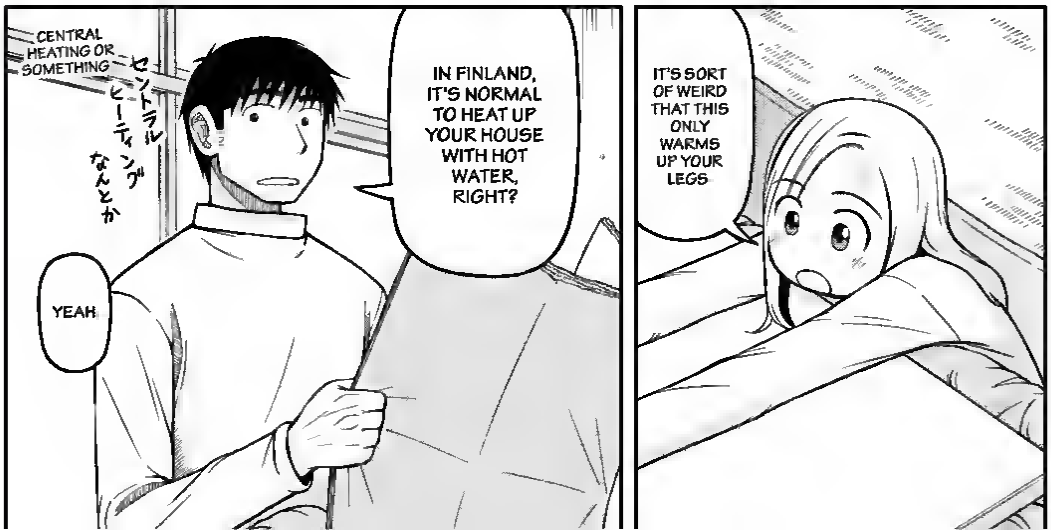

A HEATER LIKE THIS.
NINA DIDN'T KNOW THAT JAPAN HAD
HM.

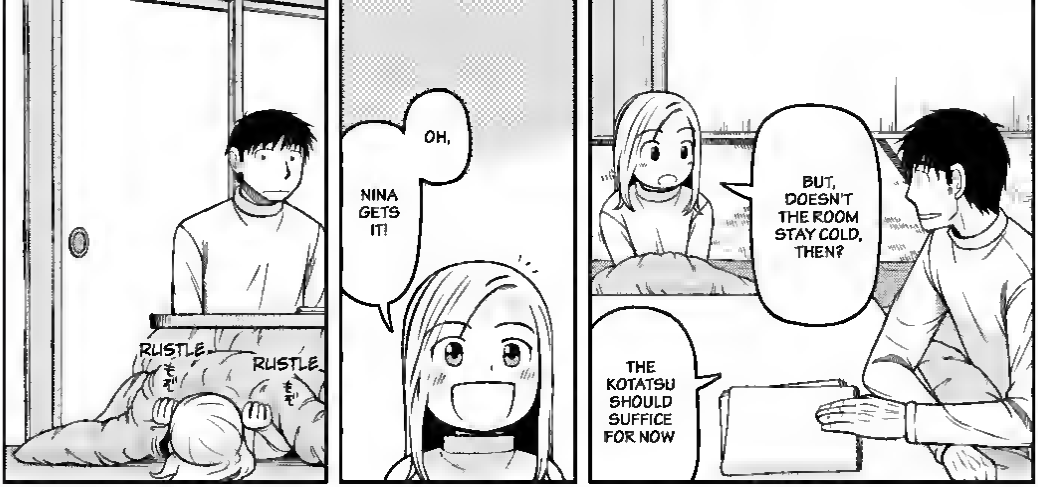

HEY DON'T DIVE IN LIKE THAT.
ぐいっ
RUSTLE
ずずず
RUSTLE
ずずず

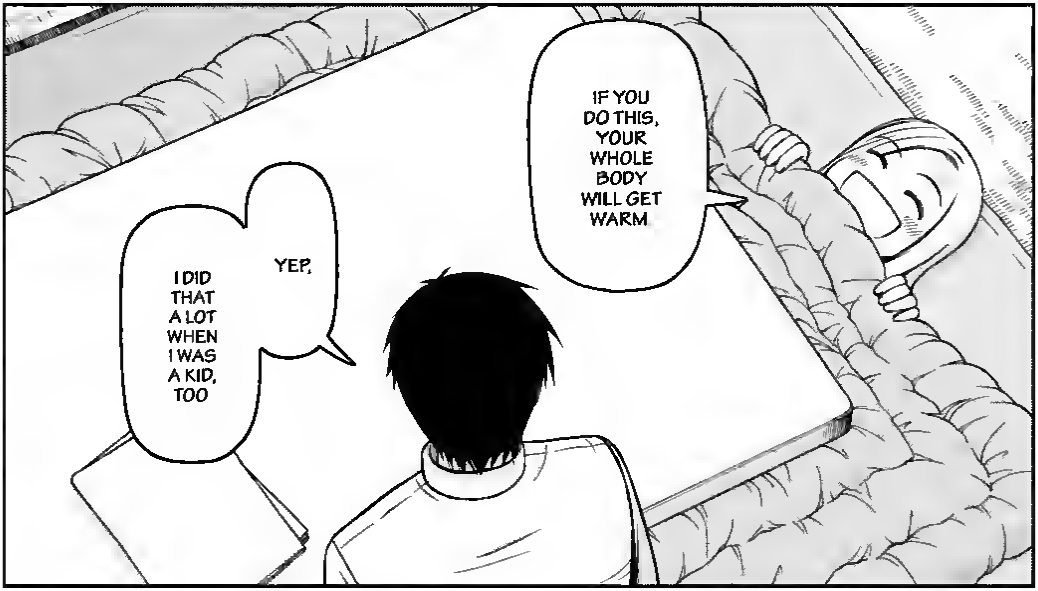

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE UNDERNEATH?

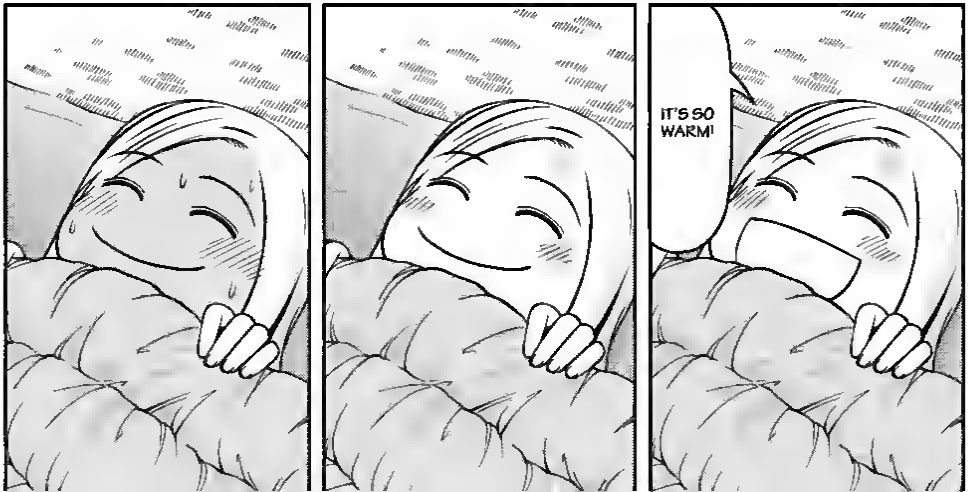
SHUTARO, YOUR FEET SMELL!
SORRY...
WH-WHAT'S WRONG?
EEK!
キャッ

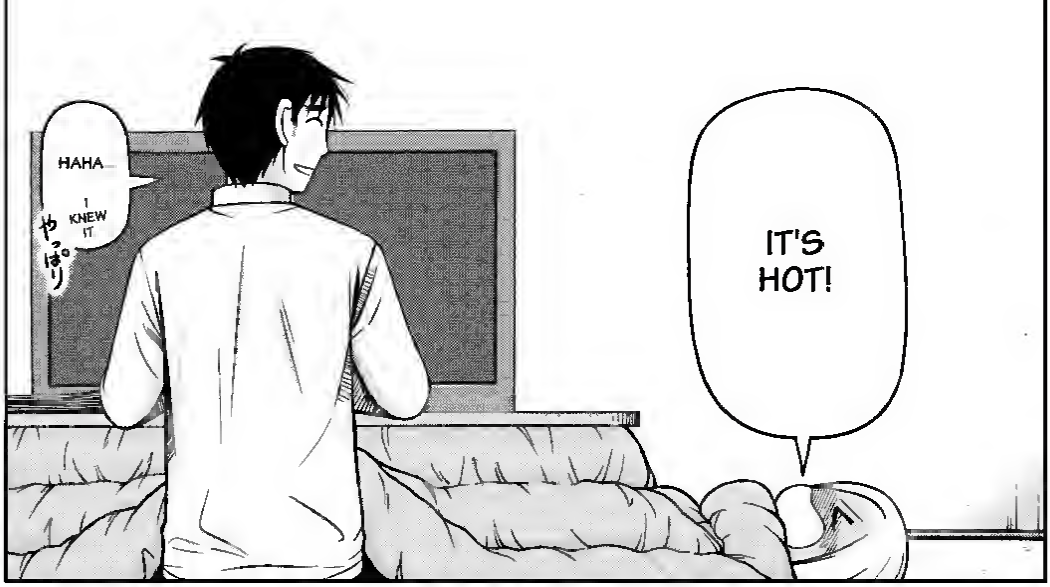


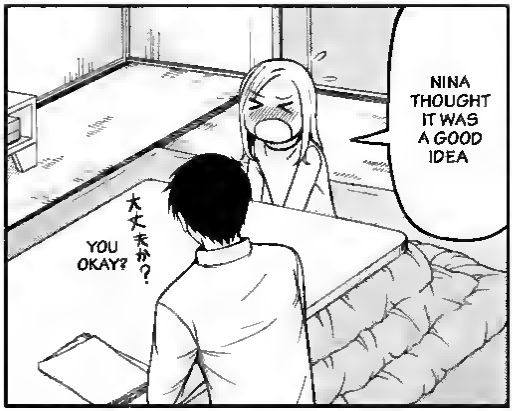

CENTRAL HEATING OR SOMETHING
セントラルヒーティングなんとか
IN FINLAND, IT'S NORMAL TO HEAT UP YOUR HOUSE WITH HOT WATER, RIGHT?
YEAH
IT'S SORT OF WEIRD THAT THIS ONLY WARMS UP YOUR LEGS

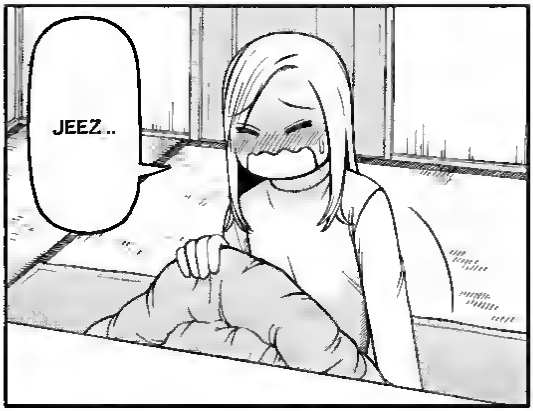

RUSTLE
RUSTLE
OH,
NINA GETS IT!
BUT, DOESN'T THE ROOM STAY COLD, THEN?
THE KOTATSU SHOULD SUFFICE FOR NOW

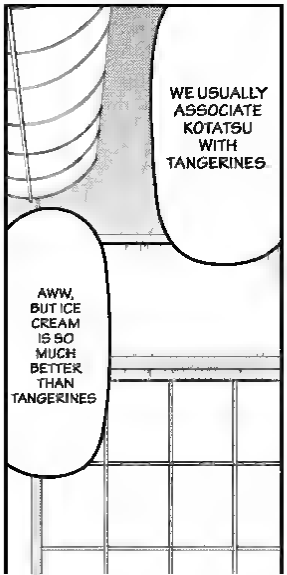

IF YOU DO THIS, YOUR WHOLE BODY WILL GET WARM
YEP,
I DID THAT A LOT WHEN I WAS A KID, TOO


IT'S SO WARM!


IT'S HOT!
HAHA...
I KNEW IT
やっぱり


NINA THOUGHT IT WAS A GOOD IDEA
YOU OKAY?
大丈夫か？

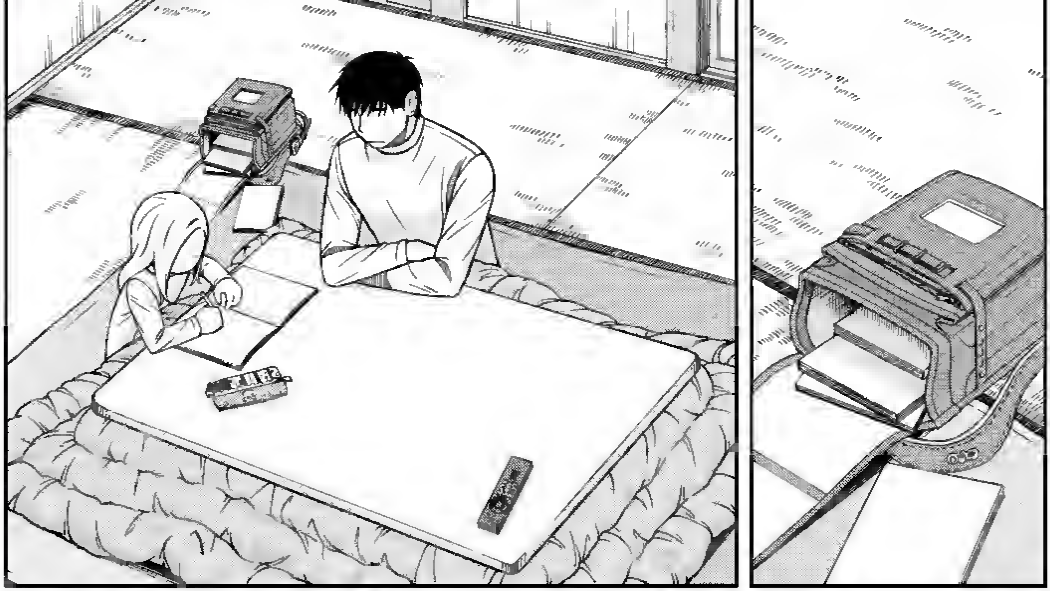

JEEZ..

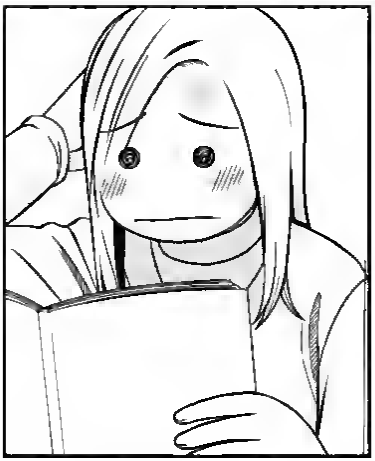

WE USUALLY ASSOCIATE KOTATSU WITH TANGERINES
AWW, BUT ICE CREAM IS SO MUCH BETTER THAN TANGERINES

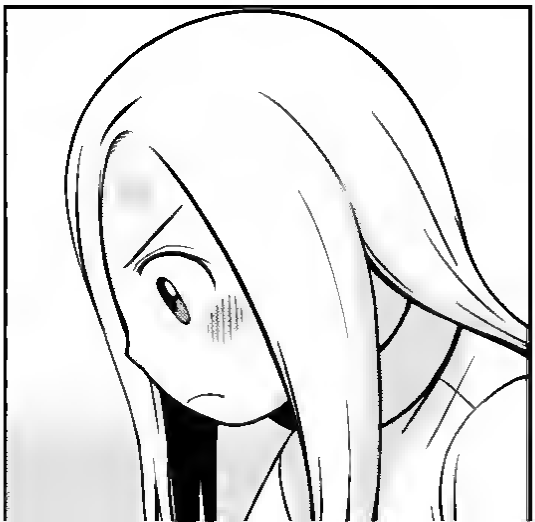
NINA KINDA WANTS ICE CREAM NOW
WHAT?

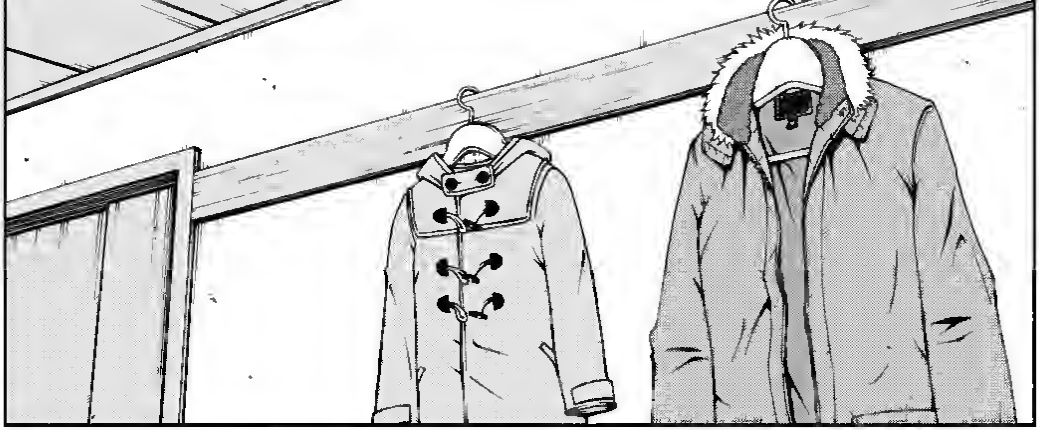
...

HEY, SHUTARO
HM?
TOGETHER?
CAN WE WATCH MOMONA-CHAN'S DVD
I'LL WATCH IT WITH YOU, BUT GO FINISH YOUR HOMEWORK FIRST
GOT IT.
HOW MANY TIMES ARE YOU GONNA WATCH IT?
何回見るんだよ
YOU SURE DO LIKE THAT DVD
YEP









SHUTARO,
DO YOU HAVE A MINUTE?
WHAT'S UP?
I'M OUT OF PONZU
COULD YOU GO BUY SOME FROM THE CONVENIENCE STORE?
YEAH, SURE

COME ON, NINA
WHAT?
NINA DOESN'T WANT TO GET OUT OF THE KOTATSU RIGHT NOW
I'LL BUY YOU SOME ICE CREAM
OKAY, LET'S GO!

OH.
CLACK
ガチャッ

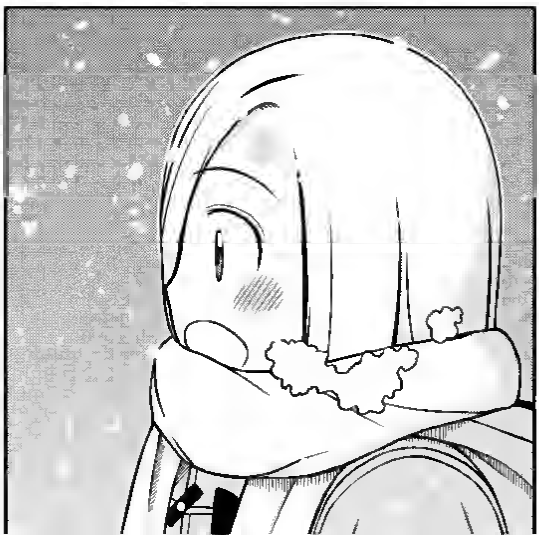
IT'S SNOWING.

NO WONDER IT'S COLD.

SINCE NINA'S COME TO JAPAN,
SHUTARO
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME IT'S SNOWED

NINA,
LET'S CUT THROUGH THAT FIELD OVER THERE
OKAY
WELL, YEAH...
SNOW IN JAPAN IS THE SAME AS SNOW IN FINLAND, HUH?

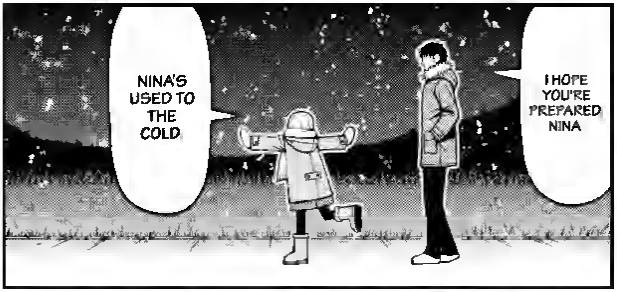
100m



WOW...
DO YOU... THINK THE SNOW WILL STICK?
HM?
HEY, SHUTARO.
THE FIRST SNOW OF THE YEAR USUALLY DOESN'T.
AWW, THAT'S NO FUN.

IT'S SO PRETTY!

THE WINTER IN KITA-KARUI
IS PRETTY INTENSE


I HOPE YOU'RE PREPARED NINA
NINA'S USED TO THE COLD

NOT TO MENTION

HAHA.
DON'T WORRY, IT'LL EVENTUALLY START STICKING.

*FINNISH FOR "FINNISH"